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Ex-Hawaii residents in territories seek presidential voting. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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ANTI-SEXUAL VIOLENCE MOTORCADE

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence leads a motorcade last Saturday, Oct. 10, in its first ever Driving Out Domestic Violence Motorcade that began at 9am in Marpi, along the road beside the former Mariana Resort & Spa Saipan. The long row of cars, decorated in purple balloons, were escorted by police as the riders spread awareness about driving out domestic violence. NEIL FAMA

Torres: Talks with airlines for travel bubble continue

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Torres

The Torres administration is in talks with a couple of airlines in connection with the Marianas Visitors Authority's effort to create the so-called "travel bubble" as a means to slowly revive the CNMI's

» CNMI targeting tourists from South Korea as the first tourists to come in

tourism industry since the shutdown of the CNMI's borders due to COVID-19 pandemic early this year.

Speaking at his regular radio news briefing last Friday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres disclosed that they are

See TORRES on **Page 4**

2 test positive for COVID-19

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Two more individuals were confirmed positive for COVID-19 last Oct. 10, raising the CNMI's total to 77 since March 28, 2020.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the two individuals were identi-

See POSITIVE on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 11, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	2,934	144	3,078
Recovered	2,067	4	2,071
Active	803	144	947
Deaths	58	2	60
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			54,685

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	75	2	77
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

IT&E urged to give free data to students, teachers

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Senate vice president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) is requesting IT&E to extend to CNMI teachers and students the same free data it recently offered in Guam.

Hofschneider

In his letter Thursday to Guam/CNMI IT&E chief

See IT&E on **Page 4**

'Only CCC has the authority to suspend or revoke casino license'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Edward Deleon Guerrero said that only the CCC board has the authority to revoke or suspend the casino license of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

At the Commonwealth Lottery Commission's meeting in the Office of the Governor's conference room Thursday, Deleon Guerrero said the annual license fee matter is presently the subject

See CCC on **Page 4**

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Edward Deleon Guerrero confers with Commonwealth Lottery Commission member Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig during a recess at CLC's meeting Thursday in the governor's conference room. Also in the photo is CLC chair Mark O. Rabauliman. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

NATION
The White House doctor said that President Donald Trump is no longer transmitting the virus.
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WORLD
A new report estimates that 29 million women and girls are victims of modern slavery.
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LIFE & STYLE
A revered American poet, Louise Glück, has won the Nobel Prize in Literature
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Rota backs destination enhancement initiative

Rota has answered the call for support for the CNMI's destination enhancement campaign.

The Rota Mayor's Office, Filipino Community of Rota, or FILCOR, and Hotel Valentino have signed up with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership, an initiative that encourages both the private and public sectors to help maintain and develop parks, landmarks, and tourist sites on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Under their five-year commitment to PPP, the Rota Mayor's Office, FILCOR, and Hotel Valentino have adopted the Songsong Village and the Pinatang Park. The three groups have proposed to spruce up the old abandoned buildings at the main thoroughfare of Songsong and the concrete fence of the park.

Typhoons, businesses folding up, and residents moving out have left Rota with many abandoned buildings, while time and lack of funds for maintenance have caused the continued deterioration of the concrete fence of Pinatang Park—a seawater park with several channels out to the open sea.

To start with their improvement project, the Rota Mayor's Office, FilCOR, and Hotel Valentino will be doing paint jobs in some parts of the abandoned buildings and trimming overgrown shrubs. They will also plant flowers and grow foliage in the target areas. The Pinatang Park fence will be assessed first so they could come up with a repair plan.

"We are excited to collaborate with Hotel Valentino and FILCOR and support the Public Private Partnership initiative. This program will allow members of our community to assist in helping beautify our island. My staff are ready to assist and intend to use this time we have now to help address the eyesore issue (abandoned buildings) that many members of our community have expressed concern with," said Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig.

FILCOR president Jesusa Calvo said their group believes that the beautification project isn't just about impressing neighboring islands and visitors, but also about how residents work together to make a difference in the community they live in.

"The island is home to us and it's our responsibility to take care of the place that welcomed us with open arms. Since I came here in 1992, I always hear people saying 'Na'gatbo Luta," which means 'Beautify Rota.' We want help do that. Together we can," Calvo said. ***(PR)***

CUC, mayor's office, Docomo tie up for tree trimming work

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Docomo Pacific recently agreed to collaborate with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to perform tree trimming on the electrical grid and digital cable throughout Saipan, which will kick off tomorrow, Oct. 13, 2020, starting on Isa Drive.

Tree trimming will be done on the High Voltage Primary and Secondary Transmission systems where power lines and Docomo Pacific's digital cable are suspended. This work will be performed to protect the integrity and reliability of both power grid and cable service.

According to a CUC statement, the collaboration identifies the importance of these systems and assuring resiliency and better quality of service. "This is one of the many ways that can build, maintain and share the cost of long-term maintenance on these vital service links," the CUC statement added.

In the event that a power interruption is required, then all protocols will be followed to ensure that the community is informed in advance.

"I would like to extend my appreciation to both Mayor Apatang and Docomo Pacific CNMI for assisting in protecting our critical infrastructure and community," said CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho in the statement.

CUC regularly performs tree trimming and vegetation control around its power transmission and distribution infrastructure in order to minimize the chance of a power interruption during any kind of environmental event, typhoon, high winds, and heavy rains. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

NMTI: 5 members a no-show at board meeting

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Only two board members showed up at a special meeting of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board last Friday, Oct. 9, resulting in a lack of quorum that abruptly cancelled the meeting.

Of the seven board members, only Richard Kautz and Deron Mendiola showed up, with latter present virtually. NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres was also present.

The board meeting was announced last Oct. 7 for a special meeting on Oct. 9 at 10am at the NMTI's facility. There was no announcement of a cancellation prior to the meeting.

The NMTI board members were to go over new businesses such as NMTI's reopening plans, alternative funding sources, and review of board chair Mario Valentino's letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. Both McPhetres and Kautz declined to comment on the line-item vetoes that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres did on the fiscal year 2021 budget, particularly the one that affects NMTI, saying it would be appropriate to wait for the other board members.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Torres line-item vetoed the CW fund allocation that would have given NMTI and the Northern Marianas College $600,000 and $800,000 respectively for their vocational educational curricula, apprenticeships, or other training programs.

Additionally, the bill would have permitted the transfer of the CW funds to NMTI, provided that $50,000 of the funds is reserved each for Rota's and Tinian's training programs. The bill would also allow the transfer of the CW fund to NMC provided that $50,000 of the funds allocated to NMC shall be used for the Nursing Program equipment and supplies.

Another board meeting will be scheduled to talk about new business. Additionally, NMTI board members will also discuss the status of the employees such as annual leaves.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT
To authorize the creation of a public / private partnership/corporation that will explore the commercialization of the seafloor massive sulfides (SMS) at the second Marianas arc thereby stimulating the marine and ocean science manufacturing industry; and for other purposes.

A BILL FOR AN ACT
To authorize the establishment and creation of a CNMI flagged airline as a public corporation; and for other purposes.

A BILL FOR AN ACT
To authorize and create a public/private development of the Lao-Lao Bay Water Park and Board Walk; and for other purposes.

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Taiwan's TECO reopens in Guam

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam reopened last Saturday after a three-year hiatus, coinciding with Taiwan's celebration of its 109th National Day, popularly referred to as Double Ten Day or Double Tenth Day.

The opening, attended by top officials of Guam and Taiwan in observance of COVID-19 health and safety protocols, was shared with the public online. Guam and Taiwan official said the office's reopening ensures their continued cultural and economic exchange.

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu, who opened the celebration, said that Taiwan and Guam enjoys strong bilateral relations especially in trade, tourism, and medical cooperation.

Guerrero

"…Taiwan enterprises…have long invested in Guam and laid strong foundation for future economic relations. …Before the pandemic, 30,000 people from Taiwan traveled to Guam this year, making Taiwan Guam's third largest source of tourists and, in recent years, an increasing number of people from Guam have traveled to Taiwan for medical treatment," he said. "On behalf of the people of Taiwan...I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to the United States government and the government of Guam for their cooperation and assistance as well as to all our friends who made the re-establishment of our Guam office possible. Thank you to Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero for the support… as well as her recognition of Taiwan's leadership in the global response to COVID-19 and I am confident that we will overcome the challenges caused by the pandemic and enhance economic and people exchanges."

Wu

Leon Guerrero, who sent a message via video, echoed Wu's message about TECO's reopening as a testament to the strong ties between the two governments. "Under this office, Taiwan and Guam will be able to engage in economic and cultural exchanges and increased services and assistance for Taiwanese travelers and businesses. …Taiwan remains as one of the success stories in this global pandemic and we commend your leadership for what you are able to accomplish. It is accomplishments such as these that would make Taiwan's participation in international organization like the World Health Organization an invaluable resource."

Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, who was at the event, said that Taiwan has been supportive of Guam since the onset of the pandemic and thanked Taiwan for its donations of thermo-scanners and pandemic readiness kits that will be distributed to the Guam government, the Legislature, the Guam Memorial Hospital, and the Guam Regional Medical City.

"If there is a lesson that this pandemic taught us, it is that global cooperation and friendly relations with our neighbors are important and we hope that the presence of this office can help facilitate even stronger ties between Taiwan and our region," Tenorio added.

TECO general director Paul Chen assured that the meaningful exchanges between Guam and Taiwan will never stop. "Now we are welcoming the next phase of this long-standing partnership. …Guam remains [a] top travel destination for Taiwanese citizens. … With the reopening of the consular office, we do not only offer assistance for Taiwanese residents traveling or residing here, but also meaningful exchanges between Taiwan and Guam. We look forward to be

See TECO on Next Page

NMI JUDICIARY RECEIVES CARES ACT FUNDING

Guma'Hustisia to build a COVID-19 screening zone

Beginning mid-October, the front entrance of the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe will undergo construction for a COVID-19 Screening and Security Zone, or SSZ, using federal funds provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, popularly referred to as the CARES Act. The construction project is estimated to be completed by the end of the year.

In June 2020, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, together with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, allocated CARES Act funding to the Judiciary. CARES Act funding is used to comply with social distancing and sanitization restrictions and projects, like the SSZ.

The SSZ will be an extension of the front door to the Guma' Hustisia, enclosed to shield court patrons from the natural elements. It will include a queue or waiting area, large enough to comply with social distancing precautions. UV-ray light technology will also be used in the queue area and other parts of the Guma' Hustisia to disinfect the air, surfaces, and patrons' personal belongings. General sanitization supplies will be used to frequently disinfect the space. Designed by local architect Samuel M. McPhetres, Jr. of GUMA Architects, LLC, the SSZ will additionally serve as a security zone, incorporating scanning machines and metal detectors.

Due to the construction, an alternate entry and exit will be set up at the north end of the Guma' Hustisia, next to Marianas High School. Court services such as the Cashier's Office, the Clerk of the Superior Court, and the Judiciary Budget & Finance Office will temporarily operate on the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Courtroom A. The Commonwealth Recorder's Office will be accessible on the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza as well. At all times, the Judiciary aims to comply with social distancing and sanitization health precautions.

The Judiciary CARES Act Committee was formed to ensure the timely implementation of funds and projects. The committee is chaired by Justice John A. Manglona and coordinated by Joleen T. Salas. Ryan Camacho, Department of Finance's Financial Services manager, is instrumental in the review of expenditure of the Judiciary's CARES Act funding.

"The Judiciary is fortunate to be a recipient of CARES Act funding. It will go a long way in ensuring the most sanitary and healthy environment for employees, attorneys, and court patrons," said Director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho.

The COVID-19 Screening and Security Zone joins other ongoing projects, including repair of the air conditioning system and mold remediation. These projects are anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2021. ***(PR)***

Candidates at a Glance

The Saipan Tribune will be coming out with a supplement,

#voteCNMI

in October 29 featuring candidates in the November election.

Spread your message to reach the people WHO VOTE.

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For more information, please call 235-8747 and look for **Beth**, **Donna** or **Alyssa**

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
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High surf and rip currents until this afternoon

A high surf advisory is currently in effect until 6pm today, Monday. There is also a high risk of rip currents until this afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet are expected in the surf zone on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Dangerous rip currents are also present, particularly in the north facing reefs of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

These projections make for hazardous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. If caught in a rip current, do not swim against the current. Swim parallel to the shoreline, then back toward shore when able.

The public is advised to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing north. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions. ***(PR)***

TORRES

From Page 1

targeting tourists from South Korea for the "travel bubble," which refers to an exclusive tourism partnership between neighboring or nearby countries, preferably with one that has low COVID-19 infection rates.

He said they are in serious talks with Jeju Airlines and Asiana Airlines, while some other airlines have been inquiring about the landing fees and other items.

"We're providing more information, but they do know and acknowledge that we are one of the safest places within the region to travel and we want to keep it that way," the governor said.

Torres said they're trying to come up with a package and propose that package to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña and COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez—one that will ensure to keep and sustain the CNMI's reputation as a safe destination.

Torres hopes to bring in all industry stakeholders to the table within the next couple of weeks on how the CNMI will approach and bring in its first tourists. "Right now, it seems like South Korea is our target. And we'll be meeting with more private businesses to get a hand into this travel bubble," Torres said.

The governor said he wants to make sure that, primarily, the community will continue to be safe, and secondly, the workers, employees, and businesses are also safeguarded when they do open for tourists to start coming in.

"But now it's a different level as well, because when they return to Korea or other areas, there's also a quarantine time of 14 days. So that's a hurdle that we're also trying to overcome," he said.

Ever since the CNMI closed its borders to international tourism in mid-March, Torres said they have been trying to work out a way to reopen the CNMI safely. That included extending the dates of the planned reopening. Initially, the target was to reopen the CNMI to tourists last July 15.

"This is something that we want the community to understand and embrace, that we are trying to open up our borders," he said.

Torres said the most important factor is that the process that they will eventually adopt has to work well. "It has to be working very well. If we are going to open up to tourists, it's going to be a separate system where it doesn't interrupt the current system. So we're going to be planning on how do we open up our markets. How do we open up our tourists and make sure that who's coming in are also safe, and leaving safe?" he said.

The governor said they've been working on it for the last few months. "We continue to work on that because, at the end of the day, we do need our tourists back here to start opening up our economy."

IT&E

From Page 1

executive officer Jim Oehlerking, Hofschneider said the CNMI's students and teachers are experiencing the same difficulties with distance or remote learning as their brothers and sisters to the south.

He said most of the CNMI Public School System students and teachers will be conducting distance learning due to the public health threat of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The senator made the request after learning last Wednesday that IT&E is offering free data for Guam students and teachers so they could access popular distance learning platforms, including Blackboard Learn, Blackboard Ultra, and the G Suite for Education, which includes Google Classroom and others.

"While I applaud IT&E's support and partnership with the community in Guam, I humbly request that IT&E extends the same support and partnership to the CNMI," Hofschneider said.

The senator acknowledged that CNMI IT&E and PSS are already collaborating on how IT&E can best serve and assist students and teachers while they transition to distance learning this school year. However, he said, he does not believe that CNMI IT&E has offered free data in the CNMI for students and teachers to access learning platforms for this school year. If IT&E can extend this service to the students and teachers in Guam, it should also be possible to extend such services to the CNMI because there's only about 12,000 total students and several hundreds of teachers here, Hofschneider said.

"The CNMI stands ready to assist IT&E in expanding and improving its services to the people and community," he added.

TECO

From Page 3

the…bridge of communication and process between Taiwan and Guam as the solid foundation is already in place and together we are stronger."

The reopening also featured messages of goodwill from Guam Legislature Speaker Tina Muna Barnes, Chief Justice Philip Carbullido, and Mrs. Lily W. Yu.

The TECO was established in 1999 but was closed in 2017 due to budget and manpower issues.

POSITIVE

From Page 1

fied by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through testing on arrival. The two have been safely in quarantine and were moved to the isolation area at Kanoa Resort for monitoring. CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

Guam reported its 60th COVID-19-related death yesterday. According to the Joint Information Center press release, it was notified that Guam's 60th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital at approximately 3:51am. The patient was a 60-year-old male with underlying health conditions that were compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to GMH on October 3 and tested positive upon admission.

The JIC statement included a statement from Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero: "[First gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I send our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to those he cherished. You will remain in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult of times. Making these announcements is very difficult, and each death brings sadness to our people. Let's continue with our fight against this virus. Keep our guards up. Wear your masks, social distance and avoid social gatherings."

Speaking at the weekly radio news briefing, COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez assured that nothing has changed and that they are continuing all efforts to protect the CNMI community from the virus, that they haven't lowered their "level of standards," especially with neighboring islands and regions seeing a higher number of infections.

Villagomez adds that the CNMI is in "constant communication" with others in the region to ensure that the CNMI is synchronized with other regions in their COVID-19 response.

Although the economy took a hit since the beginning of the pandemic, efforts to revamp tourism has not slowed down, Villagomez said, adding that constant communication with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Marianas Visitors Authority, offshore contractors, etc., are still ongoing to ensure that there are updates on what's going on.

Additionally, Villagomez stated that Torres is constantly being updated on everything, especially with potential plans of reopening the economy.

At the same radio briefing, Torres says they want the community to understand and embrace is that they are trying to open up the borders. "I think the most important [thing] is the process that we have today is working and is working very well. If we are going to open up for tourists, it's going to be a separate system where it doesn't interrupt the current system," said Torres.

Questions such as "how do we plan to open up to our markets," "how do we open up on our tourist," and "how do we make sure that who's coming in are also safe and leaving safe," is something that they have been working on for the past few months.

"We continue to work on that because, at the end of the day, we do need our tourists back here… to start opening up our economy," said Torres.

CCC

From Page 1

of CCC's enforcement action.

IPI failed to pay this year's $15.5 million license fee that was due last Aug. 12.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that Public Law 19-24 clearly specifies that the annual license fee shall be paid on or before the first Oct. 1 of each year. "We are now Oct. 8. And to my knowledge none has been paid," the chairman said during the public comment portion of the CLC meeting.

This is the license for IPI to have access and to operate its gaming machines, gaming tables, and license for some key employees. "There is a question now, obviously, they cannot operate it because they do not have the license now," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that he is checking on their legal counsel on what to do as this may complicate issues.

At this time, the CCC has no further comment on the matter other than to note that the annual license fee is set by the Legislature, Deleon Guerrero said. Enforcement action means that the CCC executive director and the entire staff of CCC, inclusive of the enforcement investigations, have filed a complaint against IPI for major violations for noncompliance. Procedurally, Deleon Guerrero said, IPI is entitled to a hearing, and the CCC commissioners will be sitting as somewhat of an appellate review.

"So we have to remain impartial. And we have to hear what our staff have filed. We have to hear what IPI's answers are," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said they take this responsibility "very seriously" and want to make sure that they follow the procedures that's currently in place to assure that whatever the step they take can withstand judicial scrutiny. "We have no intention of backing off on any of this responsibility," he said.

With respect to IPI's request to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission to keep its exclusive gaming license, Deleon Guerrero said the number of gaming license is controlled by legislation and the Legislature alone determines whether there will be one or more license. Presently, he said, IPI has exclusive license and that whether it gets to keep it is not up for the CLC to decide. Deleon Guerrero said the current license is subject to IPI's compliance with the terms and conditions of the license agreement.

Pertaining to IPI's proposal to postpone the payment of the $20 million community benefit fund that is due this month, Deleon Guerrero said this matter is also a subject of enforcement action before the CCC. He said the CCC has again no comment at this time other than to note that the community benefit fund is a creation of the casino license agreement.

The chairman also found PI's position that, based on the CLA, the CCC only supervises gaming operations and not IPI's hotel operations or construction, to be "very offensive" to CCC.

Deleon Guerrero emphasized that the CLC has no authority to amend CCC's authority. He said the casino commissioners' authority and jurisdictions are created by statute and that the casino license agreement cannot remove the authority that was specifically granted by the statute.

On IPI's request that P.L. 20-85 be made retroactive to July 2015 so that IPI can sue patrons over unpaid debts starting from 2015, Deleon Guerrero said this law is about preventing fraudulent misuse of financial instruments in casino gaming and other transactions. He said CLC's ability to grant this relief is still unclear even to CCC so they have no comment on this point at this time.

On IPI's force majeure argument, Deleon Guerrero said the CLA force majeure provision provides for up to six months' suspension of IPI's obligation due to forces outside of its control, like acts of God, "whether it's a Super Typhoon Yutu or COVID-19 pandemic." Deleon Guerrero said IPI is requesting CLC to amend this provision to reduce future license fee proportionally. The chairman noted that this matter is presently the subject of a CCC enforcement action, so they have no comment at this time other than to say that the annual casino license fee is set by the Legislature. He gave a similar response when asked about IPI's proposal to reduce the $3 million annual regulatory fee to $1.5 million, that this matter is also the subject of an enforcement action and that the fee is set by the Legislature.

On IPI's proposal for the legalization of online gambling to offset the impacts of the various unfavorable changes in the economy and the disastrous impact of COVID-19 over the global economy, Deleon Guerrero said it is unclear to CCC how the CLC can grant such a relief. He said the CLC may want to consult with their legal counsel regarding the Federal Wire Act restrictions.

"If you have internet gaming within the CNMI, it defeats the purpose of having outside people play at the casino. The Wire Act, as I understand it, may not allow that to occur," he added.

During Thursday's meeting, CLC took out from its agenda several IPI proposals, but allowed IPI to defer for six months its payment of the $20-million community benefit fund due to force majeure.

Ex-Hawaii residents in territories seek presidential voting

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—Six former Hawaii residents who now live in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands want to be able to vote by absentee ballot for president.

They are being treated like "second-class citizens" because of where they live, they said in a federal lawsuit filed late Thursday in U.S. District Court in Honolulu.

They would be able to vote absentee for president and representation in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives if they lived in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or anywhere else in the world. But former residents of U.S. states don't have the same right if they move to other territories: Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa or Puerto Rico.

"Disparate treatment with respect to voting is an especially grievous constitutional violation because voting is a fundamental right," the lawsuit said. "Indeed, even if they resided in Antarctica – or left Earth entirely to work at the International Space Station – they would still be permitted to vote for President and voting members of Congress in federal elections."

One of the plaintiffs, U.S. Air Force veteran Randall Jay Reeves, was born in Ohio and moved to Guam in 1996 as an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration. In 2002, he was transferred to Hawaii and then later back to Guam, where he lives now.

The lawsuit noted that he was able to vote by absentee ballot for president while in Germany in 1988, where he remained as a civilian contractor for the Department of Defense after leaving the Air Force.

One of his FAA colleagues happens to live in the Northern Mariana Islands. The colleague is able to vote by absentee ballot for president, but Reeves is unable to.

Borja

Another plaintiff, Vicente "Ben" Borja was born in Guam and volunteered to serve in the U.S. Navy. He lived in Hawaii, where his wife battled cancer. It was her dying wish for them to return to Guam, the lawsuit said.

"Mr. Borja believes that if one can be drafted to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces, as residents of Guam are, one should be able to vote for the Commander-in-Chief," the lawsuit said.

Borja said he has earned the right to vote after serving in the Navy for 28 years. "Every citizen deserves the right to vote, wherever they happen to live," he said.

Similar lawsuits, including one filed in Illinois, have been unsuccessful.

If this latest lawsuit is successful, it would affect anyone in a territory who used to live in a state, which could be hundreds of thousands of people.

Representatives for defendants Hawaii Office of Elections, the Federal Voting Assistance Program and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said they don't comment on pending litigation. Esper delegates the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

"The next Congress may have an historic opportunity to finally address the denial of voting rights to the nearly 4 million U.S. citizens who live in territories," said Neil Weare, president of Equally American, a civil rights group that is one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

The lawsuit isn't expected to be resolved in time for Election Day next month.

New suit seeks to expand voting rights in US territories

Ahead of one of the most important elections in recent history, six U.S. citizens living in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands have filed a federal lawsuit challenging federal and state laws that deny them the right to vote for President and voting representation in Congress while protecting full enjoyment of the right to vote for citizens living in other U.S. territories and in foreign countries. They are joined in the lawsuit by the civil rights group Equally American, which advocates for equality and voting rights for the nearly 4 million Americans living in U.S. territories.

"As a civilian contractor living in Germany at the end of the Cold War, I was able to vote for President by absentee ballot. But when the Federal Aviation Administration assigned me to Guam, I was no longer able to vote for President, even as colleagues who were assigned to the Northern Mariana Islands continue to be afforded the right to vote for President by absentee ballot," said Randy Reeves, the lead plaintiff in *Reeves v. United States*. "Picking and choosing which citizens can vote for President based solely on where they happen to live is not just wrong, I believe it is unconstitutional."

Absentee ballots have become one of the hot-button issues of the 2020 election. However, citizens who move to certain U.S. territories are treated unequally when it comes to being able to vote for President by absentee ballot. Under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and state overseas voting laws, former state residents who are now residents of the Northern Mariana Islands or a foreign country are able to continue voting for President and voting representation in Congress by absentee ballot in their former state of residence. But plaintiffs—each former residents of Hawaii—have lost full enjoyment of their right to vote by virtue of living in Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"In a roller coaster year where the President and Congress are making life-and-death decisions related to COVID-19 and other critical issues, it is unjust and absurd that U.S. citizens in the territories have no voice in these fundamental issues simply because of where they live," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American. "Where you live shouldn't cost you the right to vote."

The four plaintiffs who are residents of Guam include Randy Reeves, Ben Borja, Dr. Fred Schroeder, and Patti Arroyo. Reeves is an Air Force veteran, who lost his right to vote for President after the FAA assigned him to Guam, where he has now lived for more than 20 years. Borja served for 28 years in the U.S. Navy, volunteering to serve in 1969 after it was clear he would be drafted. Schroeder has practiced family medicine in Guam for decades, seeing first-hand how a lack of voting rights has contributed to disparities in federal health care programs that have denied island residents of much-needed care. Arroyo is a popular talk show host whose program regularly discusses federal policy issues impacted by the denial of voting rights.

"I served 28 years in the U.S. Navy, leaving my family for months at a time to defend democracy and the Constitution," said Borja. "I've earned the right to vote, and I want to be able to see my children and grandchildren treated the same as any other U.S. citizen. Every citizen deserves the right to vote, wherever they happen to live."

Plaintiffs in the U.S. Virgin Islands include Ravi Nagi and Laura Castillo Nagi, two attorneys who have raised their children in St. Thomas after moving there from Hawaii 15 years ago.

Plaintiffs in the case are represented by attorneys TJ Quan, who grew up in Guam and now practices law in Hawaii; Vanessa Williams, an attorney in Guam; Pamela Colon, an attorney in the U.S. Virgin Islands who was a plaintiff in a similar lawsuit, *Segovia v. United States*; and a team of pro bono attorneys based in Washington, D.C. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

RES INTERNATIONAL LLC

Notice is hereby that RES International LLC, a corporation established in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was dissolved effective October 09, 2020. Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below:

RES INTERNATIONAL LLC
P.O. Box 502242, Saipan, MP 96950
All claims not filed within the time required by law will forever be barred.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

ALEXIS INTERNATIONAL LLC

Notice is hereby that Alexis International LLC, a corporation established in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was dissolved effective October 01, 2020. Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below:

ALEXIS INTERNATIONAL LLC
P.O. Box 501051, Saipan, MP 96950
All claims not filed within the time required by law will forever be barred.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
E-Mail: tinianscholarshipoffice@gmail.com
Telephone: (670) 433-2200 • Facsimile: (670) 433-1819

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village Tinian.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Welcoming of New Members to the Board
   D. Adoption of Agenda
   E. Adoption of Minutes
      - August 05, 2020 (TMSB Special Meeting)

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

III. **NEW BUSINESS**
   A. Election of Officers to fill the following vacant positions:
      - Vice Chairman
      - Secretary
      - Treasurer
   B. Review & Approval of Fall 2020 Applicants
      - Available funding for this semester

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

V. **SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING**

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF MATT SUN, Minor Child, By: Yi Ji, Petitioner.) FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0318) ORDER SETTING HEARING AND PRESCRIBING NOTICE REGARDING ADOPTION OF MINOR CHILD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Ms. Yi Ji (**"Ms. Ji"**), petitioned to this Court for a decree granting her the right to adopt Matt Sun, a male child born in the Commonwealth Healthcare Center on October 4, 2019 (**"Minor Child"**), and terminating the parental rights of Ms. Xiumei Yi, the biological mother of the Minor Child.

A hearing on the Petition for Adoption of Minor Child is hereby set for December 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Guma Hustisia Courthouse before Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio. Any interested party may appear at that hearing.

Ms. Ji shall publish notice of the December 2, 2020 hearing once at least one week before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Petitioner shall also post notice on the Saipan Courthouse Public Notice Board for a period of at least ten consecutive (10) calendar days before the set hearing date.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 6th day of October, 2020.

HONORABLE TERESA KIM-TENORIO
Associate Judge

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of JESUS TILIPAO TEREGEYO, Deceased, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0231

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on July 16, 2020, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 011 G 1097, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 20 dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4288, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
843 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances:
None material

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 13, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 6th day of October, 2020:
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MANGO
Marianas Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations

MANGO Lemmai-Mei Nonprofit Incubator

Local Native nonprofit organizations will effectively operate projects that address barriers to prosperity that impact the Chamorro and Carolinian community members.

Are you interested in helping grow non-profit businesses? Do you want to see non-governmental community programs strengthened? Can you imagine the power of unity among all CNMI nonprofit organizations? Just as the lemmai or mei (breadfruit) provides for our sustenance of life so does MANGO look forward towards empowering our nonprofit community. If you are passionate about community development and have an entrepreneurial spirit, then this might just be the job you've been dreaming about but thought too good to be true!

Requirements – A passion for our mission and an entrepreneurial spirit. Must be service oriented and have a good attitude along with a strong desire to help others learn. Excellent communications skills, superb organizational skills, self-motivation, and ability to lead others. You are not asking what to do next but devising ways to accomplish the project goals in a manner that the steering committee can approve of easily. Preference given to individuals who are fluent in Chamorro and/or Carolinian languages and those willing to commit the full 36-months of this ANA grant-funded project.

Project Director – One full-time position. The successful candidate will have a strong finance background, with a degree in accounting, nonprofit or business management, or relevant four years of experience. You have experience starting a business or a project from the ground up. Your job will be overseeing, executing, and managing the project as well as recruiting and engaging membership and vetting Lemmai-Mei project participants. You will know the importance of deadlines and compliance but manage with kindness and encouragement. You will have a passionate, mentoring spirit. The Project Director reports to the Executive Director and works in collaboration with the Training Director and the Project Controller.

Program Assistant - One part-time position. The successful candidate will have at least two years administrative work experience and high school diploma. You will be customer service oriented with strong communication skills and have experience with bookkeeping and data entry. Your job will require that you are flexible, self-motivated and good-humored. You will be eager to assist with anything and everything that gets the work plan done. The Program Assistant reports to the Project Director and the Training Director.

Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations (MANGO) is a CNMI tax-exempt nonprofit organization. If you are interested in applying, please send an email to info@mangocnmi.org with the subject line "Jobs". Indicate which position you are interested in and why and attach your resume. Please include three references and their contact info.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Secrecy and accountability: The grand jury probe into the killing of Breonna Taylor

Secrecy fuels suspicion. It's natural to wonder what happens behind closed doors.

After immense public pressure from activists and politicians as well as a court motion by an unidentified juror, Kentucky's attorney general elected to release a recording of the grand jury proceedings that didn't result in homicide charges for the officers involved in the killing of Breonna Taylor. (One officer was charged with wanton endangerment for firing through a wall.)

Roughly 15 hours of audio includes witness testimony, but not the prosecutor's recommendations or the jurors' deliberations. Testimony from the police officers; Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker; and her neighbors offered conflicting details, with the officers claiming they announced themselves as police and Walker stating that he never heard them do so.

Grand jury proceedings are secret to facilitate honesty and transparency and to protect jurors' identities. The practicality and legality of such concealment is well established.

In this case, however, the attorney general was right to unveil the specifics of the proceedings.

When the argument is that the entire system is corrupt, there must be accountability and transparency.

It's also true that an attorney general exercises significant control over the narrative during grand jury proceedings. And one of the jurors in the case is contending that Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron mischaracterized the grand jury's deliberations and didn't even offer the panel the option of indictment.

In such a crucial case, not to record the recommendations was a mistake, even though he was not legally obligated to do so. (The federal court system and many state courts require prosecutors' instructions to be recorded.)

In a news conference, Cameron said none of the possible six homicide charges under Kentucky law applied to the case of Taylor, and that the grand jury agreed with this conclusion. The anonymous juror's lawyer has said the juror was uncomfortable with the fact that there was no option to charge the two officers, given the public outcry.

America's justice system does not and should not take public opinion into account.

If the laws that the system obeys are corrupt, then the recourse is electing leaders and pressuring them to change the laws, not imposing mob rule after the fact. In this case, the officers' use of force was tragic, but legally justified, according to the grand jury.

Cameron has said he is not concerned about allowing jurors to speak out if they choose. If he upheld the law, he shouldn't be. During this time of heightened scrutiny and lowered trust in institutions, pulling back the curtain is the only wise move.

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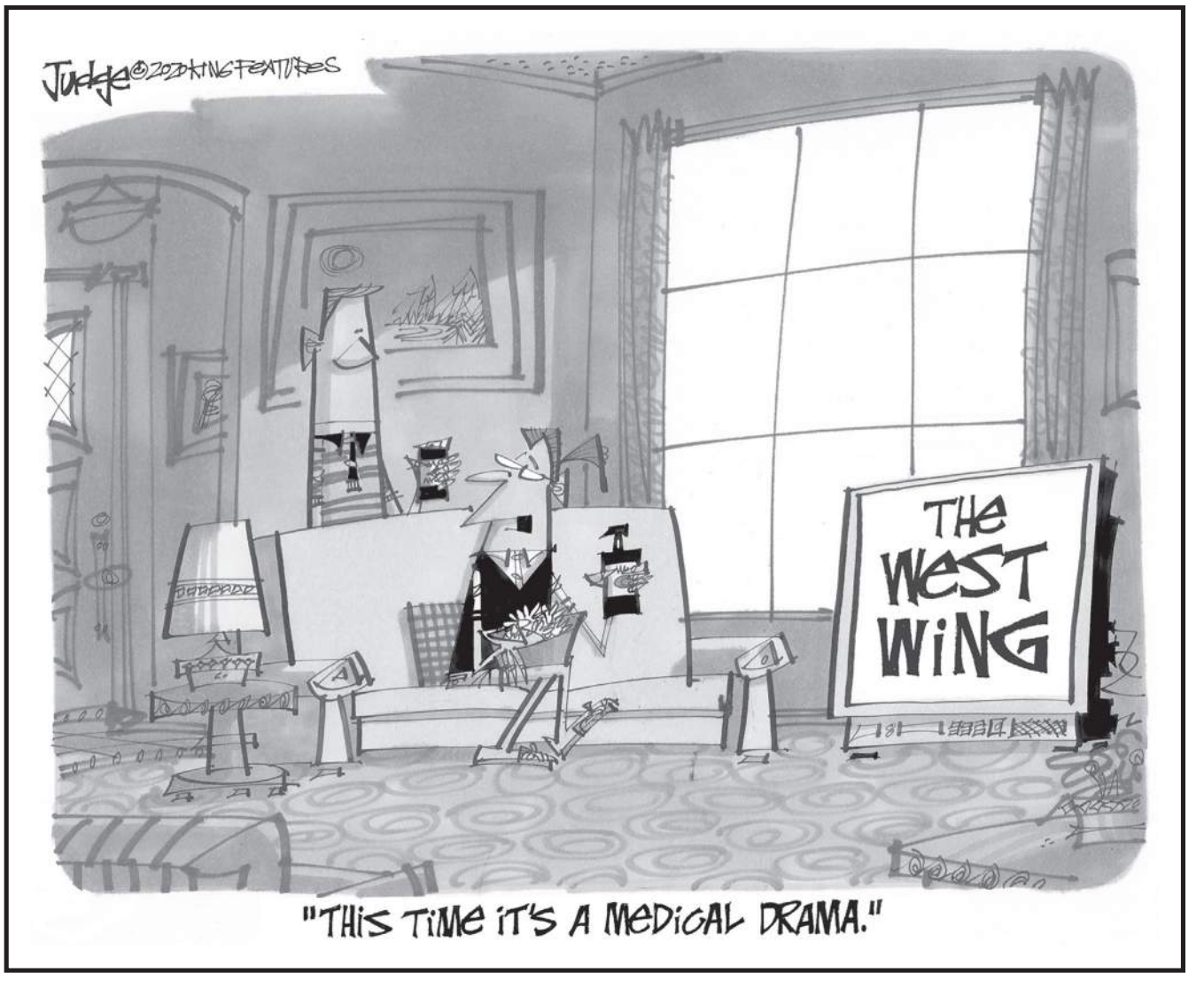


American Sāmoan nationals should vote for automatic US citizenship, not by judicial fiat

Editor's Note: This column was originally published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser *newspaper in Hawaii last Oct. 8, 2020. It is being republished here with the author's permission.*

By LINE-NOUE MEMEA KRUSE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Line-Noue Memea Kruse, Ph.D. is an adjunct faculty in Pacific Islands Studies at Brigham Young University of Hawaii and University of Hawaii West O'ahu.

On Sept. 24, the *Star Advertiser*'s online edition posted an Associated Press article of yet another U.S. appeals court in Denver considering the status of American Sāmoan citizenship ("U.S. appeals court in Denver considers status of American Samoa citizenship").

Recently, I have seen an uptick in the way that U.S. citizenship is being used as a stick to measure inclusiveness of American Sāmoans as Americans by non-Sāmoans. There is an underbelly to this conversation that if an American Sāmoan is not a U.S. citizen, then they are not American. It is an attitude that implies American Sāmoans serving or retired from the U.S. Armed Forces are hoodwinked into service for a country that does not "give" them citizenship. Not so! American Sāmoans as territorial U.S. nationals may naturalize to become U.S. citizens; it is an individual decision.

Self-determination for American Sāmoans is the more important and neglected issue in this ongoing discourse. American Sāmoans should decide if they want to become automatic U.S. citizens. This should be done through the democratic process in which American Sāmoans vote to decide whether they desire to change their political status. Then, their U.S. congressional delegate should lobby for the desire of their electorate in the U.S. Congress just as every other U.S. territory has done to obtain U.S. citizenship.

Instead, several American Sāmoans are trying to push their personal agendas through the judicial system, in continental America, to force automatic citizenship vis-à-vis judicial fiat. Most people do not realize that no one is stopping any American Sāmoan from naturalizing and becoming U.S. citizen through an already existent expedited process and fee. The continental circuit courts have become dizzied with the various U.S. citizenship cases coming before them in multiple states. Each is reading different Supreme Court cases and selecting precedent without rhyme or reason of consistency as they try to decide, "Should we grant U.S. citizenship to an entire people?"

This is critically important because unilateral bestowal of U.S. citizenship may have the secondary consequence of undoing American Sāmoan culture. Two of the most important aspects of American Sāmoan culture are communal (family owned) lands and the Fa'amatai (traditional chiefly system). Communal lands are administered by the Fa'amatai and cannot be owned by non-American Sāmoans. The American Sāmoan Senate chamber is composed of only American Sāmoan matai. The many Political Status Review Commissions have never taken any action on U.S. citizenship because many American Sāmoans felt threatened since the U.S. Constitutional Due Process and Equal Protections Clauses may very well be used to grant ownership of communal lands to those who are not American Sāmoan. Political Status Review Commission seeks public comment on the political status and citizenship issues. How long will it take before a non-American Sāmoan files a lawsuit because they cannot own communal lands that they live on? Legal think tanks in Washington, D.C. as well as U.S. citizens in American Sāmoa will shout from the mountaintops that those arguments represent irrational fears and U.S. citizenship will not cause any disruptions to the American Sāmoan way of life.

Kanaka Maoli here in Hawai`i have the wisdom of hindsight in dealing with endless judicial fights to preserve Hawaiian lands and the onslaught of federal lawsuits by U.S. citizens demanding equality and fairness in traditional spaces. I do not think there is an irrational or misplaced fear that judicial fiat that grants birthright U.S. citizenship to all American Sāmoans will result in anything other than what can be seen right here in Hawai`i to Hawaiian culture.

American Sāmoans should decide in the democratic process by electoral vote to become automatic U.S. citizenship in American Sāmoa.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

History may not repeat itself, but it sometimes comes mighty darn close

By RON GROSSMAN
Chicago Tribune

Ron Grossman is a reporter and columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

About a century ago, the secretary of state convened a Cabinet meeting and asked the president's physician to sign a statement that Woodrow Wilson was medically unfit to continue as president.

The evidence was incontrovertible. Wilson had been found unconscious on a White House bathroom floor, having suffered a massive stroke. But Dr. Cary Grayson refused to go along with Secretary of State Robert Lansing's plan for a transfer of power to the vice president.

Instead, Dr. Grayson and first lady Edith Wilson conspired to keep Wilson under tight wraps in the White House. Even members of his administration couldn't get close enough to verify the positive spin Grayson and Edith Wilson put on the president's condition.

Wilson's mind was "not only clear but very active," the doctor said. All his patient had suffered was a touch of indigestion and "a depleted nervous system."

History may not repeat itself, but it sometimes comes mighty darn close.

Ever since the announcement of President Donald Trump testing positive for COVID-19, his physician has tap-danced much like Grayson did.

Dr. Sean Conley's news conferences on Trump's health have had a regular cycle: an announcement one day, a correction and sometimes an apology the next, but always with a shortage of specifics. Like why Trump is on a drug reserved for severe cases of the virus if his case is not that bad?

Conley's performances leave me with a persistent case of deja vu. They are reminiscent of Lansing charging Grayson with "carefully avoiding giving any definite information" in his rosy prediction of Wilson's impending recovery.

Today's White House spin masters have an advantage that Wilson's lacked. Trump can walk and talk for photo ops. Returning to the White House, Trump took off his mask, like a victorious knight doffing his helmet.

But Wilson was bedridden, and that presented a problem when the king and queen of Belgium arrived in Washington, D.C., for a state visit on Oct. 30, 1919.

Wilson received the royal couple propped up by pillows on his bed. He was unshaven, and his paralyzed left arm was covered by a blanket. The royals were seated on the right, within his limited field of vision, and the room was dimly lighted.

Edith Wilson and Grayson were poised to intervene should things go south. But Wilson managed a bit of conversation, and the press proclaimed the 15-minute event a success.

The charade was sustained through the remaining 16 months of Wilson's presidency. It began on Sept. 25, 1919, in Pueblo, Colorado, where Wilson was campaigning for his pet project, a League of Nations that would prevent reruns of the recent World War I. The peace treaty, in which the league was incorporated, had run into formidable opposition in the U.S. Senate.

When Wilson had trouble speaking and maintaining a coherent train of thought, Edith Wilson and Grayson persuaded him to return immediately to Washington. He'd had a premonition that death was trailing him on his four-week tour of the Western states.

"Even though, in my condition, it might mean giving up of my life, I will gladly give up my life to save the treaty," Wilson told his secretary, the equivalent of today's chief of staff.

Once Edith Wilson and Grayson got him to the White House, all matters of state had to go through her. She called her political role "my stewardship."

"I had talked with him so much that I knew pretty well what he thought of things," she afterward explained.

Her motivation was love. Their marriage was only 4 years old, and she feared that if he were removed from office, he'd lose the will to live.

To me, that conjures up a vision of Trump lusting after a second term that would erase the stain of his impeachment.

Will the incumbent president get to see his dream realized? That will be clear in just a few weeks. But we know that Wilson's vision was unfulfilled, and we can make an educated guess why.

He'd rejected advice to take some Republicans with him to Paris when the peace treaty was negotiated and make it a bipartisan issue.

Lying in his bed when the peace treaty was debated in the Senate, his supporters and his wife urged Wilson to cut a deal with its opponents. It wouldn't take much—just language saying that the nation's war powers resided with Congress and not the League of Nations. But Wilson wouldn't compromise.

On March 19, 1920, the peace treaty was defeated in the Senate. So America didn't belong to a severely weakened League of Nations.

The Democratic Party denied Wilson its 1920 nomination, and its candidate was decisively defeated. Wilson died in 1924 having never recovered from his stroke nor acknowledging where his League of Nations campaign went wrong.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A trusted community member

During my 12 years in Congress, whenever any question arises about what is ethical, I immediately ask for a determination by the House Committee on Ethics.

So when Ms. Tina Sablan, a staff of the Northern Marianas congressional office, was considering running for a seat in the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, we consulted the Committee on Ethics whether she could continue on the congressional payroll. The answer was yes.

There is specific discussion of this situation in the House Ethics Manual: "…no statutory provision or House rule absolutely prohibits a House employee from holding a local office… ."

The Ethics Manual further advises: "A staff member considering running for or serving in a local office should first consult with his or her employing Member on the matter, and should refrain from doing so if the Member objects."

Ms. Sablan did consult with me first; and I encouraged her to run.

The Ethics Committee cautioned, however, that "federal statute (18 USC § 205(a)) prohibits an employee of the legislative branch of the United States from acting as agent for anyone before any department, agency, court, court-martial, officer, or civil, military, or naval commission in connection with any covered matter in which the United States is a party or has a direct and substantial interest."

Having determined that Ms. Sablan could continue working for the congressional office, she was contracted to perform part-time employment for about six months, from January to June 2019, primarily to wrap up pending projects and casework. Most of her casework at that time was FEMA-related and, based on our experience with Typhoon Soudelor, we thought we would start to see casework winding down within six to nine months after Yutu, which turned out to be true.

We had a conversation about whether to continue her employment beyond June, but by then she wanted to become more fully immersed in her legislative work—on the Health Committee, dealing with Medicaid and on other federal grants on the House Standing Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs—and agreed that would not be possible if she remained on as a congressional staffer. So she resigned her position and left her part-time employment with the congressional office when the contract ended in June 2019.

In my view, the care Ms. Sablan took in making sure there was no legal or ethical barrier for her to run for or serve in the Legislature is the very characteristic that makes her such a trusted member of our community.

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan
Member of Congress

They've got nothing on Judge Amy Barrett

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

The Supreme Court fight of the century is, so far, a fizzle.

The ratio of progressive outrage over the nomination of federal Judge Amy Coney Barrett to supposed reasons that the U.S. Senate shouldn't confirm her is completely out of whack—there's a surfeit of the former and almost none of the latter.

Barrett has received extraordinary testimonials from her colleagues and students, who say she is brilliant, conscientious and kind. The opposition has countered with a dog's breakfast of nonsense, including that her confirmation hearing can't be held in the middle of a pandemic—when the Senate has continued its business since the pandemic began.

Upon her selection, media outlets ran a spate of stories about her reported membership in a Catholic group called People of Praise, linking the group to the dystopian novel "The Handmaid's Tale." What Barrett's life and career have to do with the imagined misogynistic world of the novel was never clear—she's a mother of seven who has ascended to the very top of her profession with the help of a supportive husband.

Barrett's social conservatism has been another line of attack. Her critics have fastened on the fact that she signed a statement in 2006 declaring her opposition to abortion. It's not news that Barrett is pro-life, nor should it be disqualifying unless progressives believe that anyone with a view counter to theirs on a hotly contested moral issue should be, on principle, excluded from the highest court.

It is not true, as has been widely reported, that Barrett said in that same statement that Roe v. Wade should be overturned (Barrett had nothing to do with an ad denouncing Roe that ran adjacent to the statement).

The group that organized the anti-abortion statement also opposes IVF, as commonly practiced, leading Democrats to conclude that Barrett does, too. Regardless, the Supreme Court obviously doesn't police the nation's fertility clinics.

Barrett has also been portrayed as a threat to Obamacare, given that the court will hear an anti-Obamacare lawsuit shortly after the election. But the merits of the suit are so weak, it conceivably could lose 9-0.

It is alleged that Barrett would take a sledgehammer to precedent, but she wrote in a 2013 law review article that the Court's traditional approach to stare decisis "promotes doctrinal stability while still accommodating pluralism on the Court."

Since progressives haven't gotten traction with any substantive arguments against Barrett, they've been relying on dubious process arguments. Not only is it wrong, they charge, to confirm a justice so close to an election, it's a public health danger to do so now when three Republican senators have tested positive. As a headline in the online magazine Slate put it, "The GOP will still seat Amy Coney Barrett because entrenching minority rule is more important than human life."

This is laughable. First, it's a long-standing norm that when the president and the Senate majority are of the same party, Supreme Court nominees get confirmed in an election year. Second, the Senate Judiciary has already been holding hybrid in-person and virtual hearings all year. There's no reason it can't do the same with Barrett.

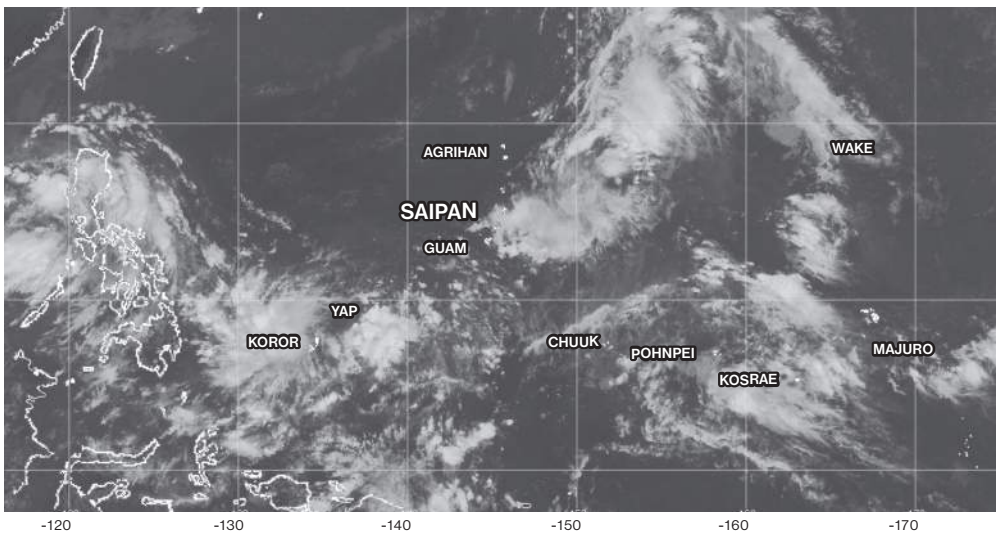
At this rate, the Barrett confirmation is going to be the epic battle that wasn't.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds. Highs near 89.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers becoming scattered late Saturday. Isolated thunderstorms.
87° 77°	87° 76°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:22 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough located north of Saipan caused showers and thunderstorms after sunset for Guam that lasted until midnight. The most active convection is now to the east of the Marianas where the trough is interacting with an upper-level low. The storms to the east of the area averaged an impressive 1000 strikes per hour of lightning over the past several hours.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	89° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:56 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:16 AM	2:32 PM	-
Tuesday	2:16 AM	3:21 PM	-
Wednesday	3:15 AM	4:08 PM	-
Thursday	4:15 AM	4:54 PM	-
Friday	5:16 AM	5:40 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	66° / 46°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	88° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Mostly Sunny	63° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Miami	Showers	85° / 78°
New York	Cloudy	66° / 58°
Osaka	Showers	72° / 64°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	75° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	89° / 66°
San Francisco	Sunny	65° / 48°
Seoul	Showers	59° / 46°
Tokyo	Showers	66° / 61°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	69° / 61°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:00 AM	LOW TIDE	1.45
9:31 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.05
5:01 PM	LOW TIDE	1.80
10:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.06

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

CNMI donates $154K worth of PPEs to Guam

Guam Memorial Hospital COVID-19 medical director Dr. Joleen Aguon, center, and GMH hospital staff receive a donation of personal protective equipment from the CNMI Office of the Governor on Wednesday. The donation follows Aguon's visit to the CNMI to provide her expertise on treatment of COVID-19 patients. Aguon is one of the few pulmonologists and intensivists in the region. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—The CNMI Office of the Governor donated last Wednesday surplus personal protective equipment to the Guam Memorial Hospital that illustrates the collaboration between the CNMI and Guam to combat COVID-19.

The donation included 1,000 surgical masks, over 14,000 face masks, and 9,000 isolation gowns to be used by front-liners at GMH, Guam's COVID-designated hospital. The PPEs are valued at over $154,000.

The donation follows the philanthropic work of Dr. Joleen Aguon, GMH medical director and Guam's COVID-19 medical director. Following an invitation and request from CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in June, Aguon visited the newly constructed Alternate Care Site on Saipan. Being one of the few pulmonologists and intensivists in the region, Aguon provided valuable expertise on treatment of COVID-19 patients.

"We thank CNMI Gov. Torres and the [CNMI] for this generous donation of PPEs. Our islands face similar challenges in the ongoing pandemic, including the tyranny of distance and limited resources, most especially human resources," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "Dr. Aguon has been at the forefront of our island's response, and she is one of many COVID heroes to be celebrated."

"This exchange is a true reflection of our cultural values—that what we have, we have to share," said Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio. "Our administration will continue to coordinate with Gov. Torres, as well as [Guam Legislature] Speaker Tina Muña Barnes who helped initiate this donation. We all have the same mission—to keep our people healthy and safe from this deadly virus."

"There are not enough words to express my gratitude to CNMI Gov. Torres and the [CNMI] for this donation of PPE. This is our armor in the fight against this invisible enemy, and the protection we need to not only do our best work to save lives, but also to keep the families we come home to safe," said Aguon. ***(PR)***

Judiciary opens additional temporary courtrooms

Starting this Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, the CNMI Judiciary will activate temporary courtrooms at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

As a new alternate site for the Superior Court, spaces on the first and third floors will be used for jury trials, bench trials, and hearings. There are two courtrooms: (1) courtroom 101 on the first floor; and (2) courtroom 301 on the third floor. Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja and Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will preside over matters at the Horiguchi Building unless otherwise noted in the general or weekly calendar.

Generally, associate judges Kenneth L. Govendo, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and Wesley M. Bogdan will preside over cases at the Marianas Business Plaza or the Guma' Hustisia unless otherwise noted in the general or weekly calendar.

With the activation of this new alternate site, the CNMI Superior Court will now hold court hearings at three locations: Marianas Business Plaza; Guma' Hustisia; and Horiguchi Building. A copy of the Superior Court's weekly calendar is available at the Judiciary's website at nmijudiciary.com.

The new site at the Horiguchi building is funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by alleviating congestion at the Marianas Business Plaza.

The Horiguchi building joins the long list of alternative sites as the Judiciary continues to provide access to justice in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic and court reopening projects. Other sites are the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, Drug Court in Chalan Kanoa, Office of Adult Probation Supervision satellite office in Susupe, and the Law Revision Commission in Susupe.

For additional information, contact Patrick V. Diaz, Superior Court Clerk of Court, at the CNMI Superior Court at (670) 235-4258 or email patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com. ***(PR)***

D&Q International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company

D&Q CO. LTD.

An international wholesale distribution company based in Guam, is seeking personable and professional applicant for the following position.

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER

Our Guam office is looking for a high-performing Regional Sales Manager. The successful candidate will help develop and meet our revenue and profit growth objectives. Responsibilities include developing key growth sales strategies, tactics, and action plans. Successful execution of these strategies is required to achieve your financial targets. Duties will include hitting annual targets, building relationships and understanding customer/market trends. The position is responsible to meet our vendor, customer acquisition and revenue growth targets by keeping our company competitive and innovative.

Responsibilities
- Develop a Business Plan, establish Sales Targets and Selling Strategies that expands company's customer base and ensure its strong presence.
- Coordinate with Sales Operations and Finance to ensure timely rebate and commission payouts are established and executed.
- Negotiate and formulate rebate structures and supply agreements on an ongoing basis.
- Collaborate with territorial sales managers to plan and develop effective sales strategies and also set goals and targets, in order to promote strong, long-lasting customer and vendor relationships.
- Manage territorial sales managers for performance using KPIs, KBMs and hold formal business reviews.
- Keep Management and leadership advised of market trends and competitor activities.
- Collaborate with management to plan and develop effective sales strategies and to also set goals and targets.
- Proposes and negotiates innovative business deals/agreements with new and existing vendors & key customers.
- Partner with Marketing leadership to build overall growth strategy.
- Prepare & provide various sales and management presentation and reports
- Prepares annual budgets, selling strategies, establishes industry channel targets, business financial planning and forecasting.

Requirements
- Must have minimum 5 years sales management experience in same or comparable industry.
- Level of direction is limited, self-starter.
- Strong Leadership skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Computer literate. Proficiency in Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint, and Word is required.
- Detail oriented with good organizational skills.
- Ideal candidate must have a reliable vehicle and able to travel as required.

D&Q Co. Ltd. is a manufacturer's representative and wholesale distribution company that offers its employees a comprehensive benefits package including paid holiday and vacation leave, bonus program, medical, dental, 401K plan and disability coverage plus optional life insurance.

In light of COVD-19 pandemic crisis, we ask that you send your resume to Attn: Human Resources mmiclat@dandq-international.com & dataclerk@dandq-international.com, or Employment Application Form is available for pickup. Please call us at (671) 649-2706. We are located on Pick-A-Nail Road, 267 Guerrero Drive, Tamuning (behind Atkins Kroll, before FedEx).

D&Q Co. Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-20
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01–02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 16, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Friday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann DeLeon Guerrero at joydlg@cpa.gov.mp no later than September 30, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-20."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 20, 2020, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 20, 2020, at 3:00p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

TRUSTED and PROVEN LEADERSHIP

2020 CNMI GOP SLATE

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISES

JOBS
MORE US WORKERS MAKING MORE MONEY
- Highest average wages among CNMI workers
- $12.87 per hour
- 6% annual average wage growth over 4 years

ECONOMY
SUPPORT LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS IN AMERICAN INVESTMENT
- $479K in business training to take advantage of US Government development projects
- Unleashed new investment and opportunities in the newly legalized cannabis industry
- Mobilized more than $120 million in direct payments to CNMI residents to support economic activity

RETIREES
KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO RETIREES
- In the worst fiscal crisis in generations, retiree pensions remain at 100%

ENERGY
INCREASED ENERGY EFFICIENCY THROUGHOUT SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA
- $2.8M in energy efficient solutions to public services

INFRASTRUCTURE
LARGE-SCALE REDEVELOPMENT OF OUR ISLANDS' INFRASTRUCTURE TO BUILD AN ECOSYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR GREATER LEVELS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- $244 Million approved for the development and resiliency of the CNMI infrastructure, housing and resources for economic development

ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT
- $3.1 million secured in rehabilitating our environment and building resilient and sustainable sites for our community

AGRICULTURE
GROWING A PRODUCTIVE FUTURE AND INDUSTRY FROM OUR SOIL
- Grew local agriculture sales to $1.6 million in commercial sales putting money in the hands of our farmers and our local agriculture industry
- $341k for development of locally sourced livestock through the Tinian Slaughterhouse
- Over $600K in Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to support community backyard farming and school gardens to enhance competitiveness of specialty crops.
- $119K in Micro grants assistance program to assist farmers, ranchers, food pantry and headstart programs to enhance food security initiatives in the CNMI.
- $360K in Zero-Waste Program to recycle green waste into fertilizers to support farmers and gardeners.
- $60K for expansion of Ma'afala Program to include distribution of seeds to farmers and community members for local consumption and to support export activities

COVID-19 RESPONSE
SAFEST COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES FROM COVID-19
- Protected the public reducing total COVID-19 cases in the CNMI saving thousands from COVID-19 infection through proactive policies and active mitigation measures
- CNMI is the safest place in the United States from COVID-19 through proactive planning, and collaboration with health care professionals and first responders

FEDERAL RELATIONS
ACHIEVING PROGRESS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND STRONG PARTNERSHIP
- Successful navigation of federal action on CNMI Visa Waiver, Immigration, Military Construction, and Labor

SENATORIAL CANDIDATES

#1 **Dennis Camacho Mendiola**
1st Senatorial District - Rota

#1 **Karl Rosario King-Nabors**
2nd Senatorial District - Tinian

#1 **Sixto Kaipat Igisomar**
3rd Senatorial District - Saipan

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Precinct 1

#4 **Roman Cepeda Benavente**

#6 **Joseph "Lee Pan" Tenorio Guerrero**

#8 **Angel Aldan Demapan**

#9 **Randall Masga Pangelinan**

#10 **Roy Aldan Ada**

Precinct 2

#1 **Daniel Jr. Iwashita Aquino**

Precinct 3

#1 **Ivan Alafanso Blanco**

#2 **Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao**

#6 **Jose Ilo Itibus**

#8 **Ralph Naraja Yumul**

#9 **Marco Taisakan Peter**

#3 **John Paul Palacios Sablan**

Precinct 4

#2 **Joel Castro Camacho**

#3 **Cecilia Remedio Taitano**

Precinct 5

#2 **Ramon Sablan Basa**

#3 **Lorenzo Iglesias Deleon Guerrero**

Precinct 6

#1 **Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas**

Precinct 7

#2 **Barrie Cuthbert Toves**

PLEASE VOTE REPUBLICAN across the ballot

TOGETHER, WE ARE MARIANAS STRONG!

This advertisement is paid for by the CNMI Republican Party

Business

WH virus aid offer panned by Pelosi and Senate GOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new White House coronavirus aid offer got bad reviews from both ends of the political spectrum on Saturday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., rejected the most generous Trump administration plan to date as "one step forward, two steps back." The Republicans who control the Senate dismissed it as too expensive and a political loser for conservatives.

Pelosi said she is still hopeful that progress can be made toward a deal but it's as clear as ever that GOP conservatives don't want a deal on her terms.

The White House had boosted its offer before Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Pelosi spoke on Friday afternoon. President Donald Trump is eager for an agreement before Election Day, even as his most powerful GOP ally in the Senate said Congress is unlikely to deliver relief by then.

"Covid Relief Negotiations are moving along. Go Big!" Trump said Friday on Twitter.

The new offer totals about $1.8 trillion, aides familiar with it said, with a key state and local fiscal relief component moving from $250 billion to at least $300 billion. The White House says its most recent offer before that was about $1.6 trillion. The aides were not authorized to publicly discuss private negotiations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Pelosi's most recent public offer was about $2.2 trillion, though that included a business tax increase that Republicans won't go for.

In a letter Saturday to colleagues, Pelosi said, "This proposal amounted to one step forward, two steps back. When the president talks about wanting a bigger relief package, his proposal appears to mean that he wants more money at his discretion to grant or withhold."

She said that while his administration attempted to address some of the Democratic concerns, disagreement remained on many priorities and Democrats are "awaiting language" on several provisions.

"Despite these unaddressed concerns, I remain hopeful that yesterday's developments will move us closer to an agreement on a relief package that addresses the health and economic crisis facing America's families," Pelosi's letter said.

Mnuchin's latest offer also got a roasting from GOP senators, who weighed in on a conference call Saturday morning, according to a Republican familiar with the call who was not authorized to discuss the call publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Many conservatives are skeptical of so much deficit-financed aid in the first place, and Pelosi-sought provisions such as expanding eligibility for the Affordable Care Act landed with a thud.

Pragmatists such as Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and politically endangered Republicans including Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina appear willing to "go big" as Trump wants. But rank-and-file Republicans — Sens. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Rick Scott of Florida, and John Barrasso of Wyoming, for example—are adamantly opposed to another relief bill that's so generous.

GOP Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell remains skeptical of the chances for an agreement, having told an audience in Kentucky on Friday that he didn't see a deal coming together before Election Day.

"I think it's unlikely in the next three weeks," McConnell said Friday. He said later that "the first item of priority of the Senate is the Supreme Court," suggesting there isn't time to process both a relief bill and the high court nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett before the Nov. 3 election.

President Donald Trump has been all over the map, first as one of the forces in favor of a deal, then killing the talks on Tuesday, only to revive them by weeks' end.

On Tuesday, he ordered an end to the weekslong talks after being told that few Republicans in Congress would end up voting for a possible Pelosi-Mnuchin deal. Now, after a political beating, Trump is pressing hard for a deal, motivated by the prospect of sending $1,200 direct payments to voters before November.

It's clear from Saturday's Senate GOP conference call that the skepticism or outright opposition hasn't changed.

Trump official says vaccine expected starting in January

A Trump administration official leading the response to the coronavirus pandemic says the U.S. can expect delivery of a vaccine starting in January 2021, despite statements from the president that inoculations could begin this month.

And a growing, bipartisan chorus of lawmakers, experts and public health officials says the country is ill prepared for a projected winter surge of COVID-19.

Dr. Robert Kadlec said in an email Friday that the administration "is accelerating production of safe and effective vaccines ... to ensure delivery starting January 2021." Kadlec is the Department of Health and Human Services' assistant secretary of preparedness and response. HHS says a vaccine could be approved before the end of the year but will take time to distribute.

President Donald Trump has said at rallies, debates and press conferences that a vaccine could arrive within weeks. "We think we can start sometime in October," Trump said at a White House press briefing last month.

Kadlec wasn't the first health official to counter the president's optimistic timeline. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said Thursday that there could be 100 million vaccine doses available by the end of the year "pending FDA authorizations." And Dr. Moncef Slaoui, who is leading the government's vaccine effort, told Marketwatch on Friday that researchers could know "by late October, or November, or in December" whether one of the vaccines in development is effective, but that it would then take weeks to get emergency authorization to administer it.

When asked about the disparity, the White House was not specific on a date but said Trump's priority is to distribute a vaccine "as soon as possible." Kadlec said, without elaborating, that it wasn't correct to conclude that this meant the country couldn't see a vaccine sooner than January.

Kadlec was responding to a series of questions from The Associated Press and FRONTLINE about the administration's response to the pandemic and, in particular, about shortages of critical medical supplies. ***(AP)***

Nation

Doctor says Trump won't transmit virus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House doctor said that President Donald Trump was no longer at risk of transmitting the coronavirus but did not say explicitly whether Trump had tested negative for it. The diagnosis came as the president prepared to resume campaign rallies and other activities.

AP

President Donald Trump removes his face mask to speak from the Blue Room Balcony of the White House to a crowd of supporters, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020, in Washington.

In a memo released Saturday night by the White House, Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley said Trump met the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for safely discontinuing isolation and that by "currently recognized standards" he was no longer considered a transmission risk.

The memo did not declare Trump had tested negative for the virus. But sensitive lab tests — like the PCR test cited in the doctor's statements — detect virus in swab samples taken from the nose and throat. Dr. William Morice, who oversees laboratories at the Mayo Clinic, said earlier this week that using the PCR tests, the president's medical team could hypothetically measure and track the amount of virus in samples over time and watch the viral load go down.

Some medical experts had been skeptical that Trump could be declared free of the risk of transmitting the virus so early in the course of his illness. Just 10 days since an initial diagnosis of infection, there was no way to know for certain that someone was no longer contagious, they said.

Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist and department chairman at the Yale School of Public Health, said Saturday night that the White House appeared to be following CDC guidelines for when it is appropriate to end isolation after mild to moderate cases of COVID-19.

But Ko cautioned that those who have had severe cases of the diseases should isolate for 20 days. He noted that Trump was treated with the steroid dexamethasone, which is normally reserved for patients with severe COVID.

Ko added that White House had issued "convoluted" statements about Trump's health that left many questions unanswered, including whether the president ever had pneumonia.

CDC guidelines note that most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others. Ko said people who have had COVID-19 can continue to test positive for weeks or longer after they are no longer infectious.

The memo stated that Trump had reached day 10 from the onset of symptoms, had been free of fever for well over 24 hours, and that all symptoms had improved.

Saskia Popescu, an infectious disease epidemiologist at George Mason University, said the tight time frame laid out by the White House made it appear that "they're really just pushing to get him out of isolation" and back to campaigning.

Delta adds insult to injury in hurricane-ravaged Louisiana

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP)—The day after Hurricane Delta blew through besieged southern Louisiana, residents started the routine again: dodging overturned cars, trudging through knee-deep water to flooded homes with ruined floors and no power, and pledging to rebuild after the storm.

Delta made landfall Friday evening near the coastal Louisiana town of Creole with top winds of 100 mph (155 kph). It then moved over Lake Charles, a city where Hurricane Laura damaged nearly every home and building in late August. No deaths had been reported as of Saturday afternoon, but officials said people were not out of danger.

While Delta was a weaker storm than Category 4 Laura, it brought significantly more flooding, Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter said. He estimated that hundreds of already battered homes across the city took on water. The recovery from the double impact will be long, the mayor said.

"Add Laura and Delta together and it's just absolutely unprecedented and catastrophic," Hunter said. "We are very concerned that with everything going in the country right now that this incident may not be on the radar nationally like it should be."

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said no fatalities had been reported as of Saturday, but a hurricane's wake can be treacherous. Only seven of the 32 deaths in Louisiana and Texas attributed to Laura came the day that hurricane struck. A leading cause of the others was carbon monoxide poisoning from generators used in buildings without electricity.

"Everybody needs to exercise a lot of caution even now, and really, especially now," Edwards said.

Delta, the 25th named storm of an unprecedented Atlantic hurricane season, was the 10th named storm to hit the mainland U.S. this year, breaking a record set in 1916, Colorado State University researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

It rapidly weakened over land and slowed into a tropical depression Saturday morning. Forecasters warned that heavy rain, storm surges and flash floods continued to pose dangers in areas from Texas to Mississippi. Large swells and rip currents closed beaches down to the Mexican border.

Asia

India cases approach 7M amid slower pace

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's confirmed coronavirus cases are nearing 7 million with another 73,272 reported in the past 24 hours.

The Health Ministry on Saturday also reported 926 additional deaths, taking total fatalities to 107,416. The deaths remained below 1,000 for the seventh straight day.

India is seeing a slower pace of coronavirus spread since mid-September, when the daily infections touched a record of 97,894 cases. It's averaging more than 70,000 cases daily so far this month, while the recovery rate has exceeded 85%.

But health experts have warned that congregations during major festivals later this month and in November have the potential for the virus to spread.

"We have to work aggressively to make sure that during winter months and during the festive season coronavirus cases don't rise dramatically," said Dr. Randeep Guleria, a government health expert.

Experts say India's fragile health system has been bolstered in recent months but could still be overwhelmed by an exponential rise in cases.

Consumer activity is gradually rebounding and millions of factory workers who had fled cities when India imposed a 2-month-long rigorous lockdown on March 25 are returning.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ The daily number of reported new coronavirus cases in Myanamar has exceeded 2,000 for the first time, as the Southeast Asian nation struggles to control the spread of the disease. The 2,158 cases announced Saturday brings the total to 26,064 since March. The total includes 598 deaths, 32 of which were announced Saturday. Myanmar had recorded just 353 virus cases at the beginning of August, but an upsurge later that month in the western state of Rakhine quickly spread to other parts of the country. Myanmar's leader, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, said in a Friday night televised address that the number of people who get infected from people who don't show any symptoms of the disease is now increasing. Suu Kyi noted that one of the drugs Myanmar is using to treat patients is Remdesivir, which was also part of U.S. President Donald Trump's treatment.

Taiwan's leader hopes for reduced tensions with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Saturday she has hopes for less tensions with China and in the region if Beijing will listen to Taipei's concerns, alter its approach and restart dialogue with the self-ruled island democracy.

Speaking at Taiwan's National Day celebrations on Saturday, Tsai took note of recent remarks by Chinese leader Xi Jinping in a video message to the U.N. General Assembly that China would never seek hegemony, expansion or to establish a sphere of influence.

"As countries in the region and around the world are now concerned about China's expanding hegemony, we hope this is the beginning of genuine change," Tsai said in her annual address at the Presidential Office in downtown Taipei.

If Beijing can "heed Taiwan's voice, change the way it handles cross-strait relations, and jointly facilitate cross-strait reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, I believe that regional tension can surely be resolved," Tsai said.

China's ruling Communist Party claims the self-governing island as Chinese territory to be annexed by force if necessary. Beijing cut contacts with Tsai's government following her election to a first term in 2016 and has steadily increased diplomatic, military and economic pressure on the island of 23 million people to compel her to endorse its contention that Taiwan and the mainland constitute a single Chinese nation, which it refers to as the "1992 Consensus."

In Beijing, a spokesperson for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office responded to Tsai's address by renewing China's demand for concessions and accusing her of "disrupting the exchanges and cooperation" between the sides, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Zhu Fenglian also accused Tsai of "deliberately misleading the people of Taiwan" and "warning the Taiwan authorities to adhere to the 1992 Consensus."

Tsai, of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, was reelected by a wide margin this spring, and especially since September, China has been sending warplanes and ships into areas under Taiwanese control, prompting the island's air force to scramble its jets at a faster tempo than before.

"For some time now, harassment by air and sea from the other side has raised tensions in the Taiwan Strait," Tsai said, adding that Taiwan would neither show weakness nor "act rashly."

"We are committed to upholding cross-strait stability, but this is not something Taiwan can shoulder alone; it is the joint responsibility of both sides," she said. "As long as the Beijing authorities are willing to resolve antagonisms and improve cross-strait relations, while parity and dignity are maintained, we are willing to work together to facilitate meaningful dialogue."

She said such an approach was built on a cross-party consensus, a nod to the main opposition Nationalist Party, which although formally advocating unification with China has been downplaying that stance in a bid to stem electoral losses.

China's campaign of isolation has seen Taiwan excluded from international gatherings and reduced its number of diplomatic allies to just 15, even while it enjoys strong informal support from the U.S., Japan and other major democracies.

Tsai also praised Taiwan's success in containing the coronavirus outbreak and outlined steps taken to boost its high-tech economy and the military.

Her speech was bookended by displays of troops and civilian defense forces, as well as bands and dance performances in front of invited guests and members of the public in front of the presidential building that dates from Taiwan's time as a Japanese colony from 1895 to 1945.

Following World War II, Taiwan was handed over to the Republic of China run by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists, who moved to the island in 1949 ahead of the Communist takeover of the mainland.

Oct. 10 National Day dates from the start of a 1911 rebellion against the Qing, China's last empire, that led to the establishment of the Republic of China, which remains Taiwan's formal name.

World

Report: 29M girls, women victims of modern slavery

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A new report estimates that 29 million women and girls are victims of modern slavery, exploited by practices including forced labor, forced marriage, debt-bondage and domestic servitude.

AP

In this March 8, 2020 file photo, Pakistani activists take part in an International Women's Day rally in Lahore, Pakistan.

Grace Forrest, co-founder of the Walk Free anti-slavery organization, said Friday that means one in every 130 women and girls is living in modern slavery today, more than the population of Australia.

"The reality is that there are more people living in slavery today than any other time in human history," she told a U.N. news conference.

Walk Free defines modern slavery "as the systematic removal of a person's freedom, where one person is exploited by another for personal or financial gain," she said.

Forrest said the global estimate of one in 130 women and girls living in modern slavery was made based on work by Walk Free, the International Labor Organization and the International Organization for Migration, both U.N. agencies..

"What this report has shown is that gender stacks the odds against girls from conception throughout their lives," she said.

According to the report, titled "Stacked Odds," women account for 99% of all victims of forced sexual exploitation, 84% of all victims of forced marriage, and 58% of all victims of forced labor.

Forrest said the face of modern slavery "has radically changed."

"We're seeing normalized exploitation in our economy in transnational supply chains and also in migration pathways," she said. "The world's most vulnerable people have been pushed even further into this practice of modern slavery because of COVID-19."

She said the estimate of women and girls in modern slavery is conservative because it doesn't account for what's happened during the pandemic, which has seen "sharp increases of forced and child marriage and exploited work conditions around the world."

Forrest said Walk Free and the U.N.'s Every Woman Every Child program are launching a global campaign to demand action to eliminate modern slavery.

The campaign urges an end to child and forced marriage, which 136 countries have yet to criminalize.

It urges the elimination of legalized systems of exploitation such as kefala, which legally binds a migrant worker's immigration status to an employer or sponsor for their contract period.

The campaign also urges transparency and accountability for multinationals.

"We know that women and girls are experiencing unprecedented levels of exploitation and forced labor in supply chains of the goods we buy and use every day—clothing, coffee, techncology," Forest said.

Armenia, Azerbaijan say Nagorno-Karabakh truce violated

MOSCOW (AP)—Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to a Russia-brokered cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh starting Saturday, but immediately accused each other of derailing the deal intended to end the worst outbreak of hostilities in the separatist region in more than a quarter-century.

The two sides traded blame for breaking the truce that took effect at noon (0800 GMT) with new attacks, and Azerbaijan's top diplomat said the truce never entered force.

The cease-fire announcement came overnight after 10 hours of talks in Moscow sponsored by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The deal stipulated that the cease-fire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict.

If the truce holds, it would mark a major diplomatic coup for Russia, which has a security pact with Armenia but also cultivated warm ties with Azerbaijan. But the agreement was immediately challenged by mutual claims of violations.

Minutes after the truce took force, the Armenian military accused Azerbaijan of shelling the area near the town of Kapan in southeastern Armenia, killing one civilian. Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry rejected the Armenian accusations as a "provocation."

The Azerbaijani military, in turn, accused Armenia of striking the Terter and Agdam regions of Azerbaijan with missiles and then attempting to launch offensives in the Agdere-Terter and the Fizuli-Jabrail areas. Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov charged that "conditions for implementing the humanitarian cease-fire are currently missing" amid the continuing Armenian shelling.

Armenia's Defense Ministry denied any truce violations by the Armenian forces and said in the evening that the truce was "largely holding" despite Azerbaijani "provocations," to which the Armenian troops responded in kind.

The latest outburst of fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces began Sept. 27 and left hundreds of people dead in the biggest escalation of the decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh since a separatist war there ended in 1994. The region lies in Azerbaijan but has been under control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia.

Since the start of the latest fighting, Armenia said it was open to a cease-fire, while Azerbaijan insisted that it should be conditional on the Armenian forces' withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh, arguing that the failure of international efforts to negotiate a political settlement left it no other choice but to resort to force.

Health & Wellness

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SILVER ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY/RISE GATHERINGS/TNS

Rachel Rubin of Rise Gatherings practicing forest bathing.

‘Forest bathing’ may be the **next best wellness practice** you never heard of

By RITA GIORDANO
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

If you accompany Tami Astorino and Rachel Rubin into the forest, you’re in for an invitation to explore—gently, slowly, one sense at a time.

Look around with fascination rather than focused attention, they will tell you. Listen for sounds near- by and far away—rustling of leaves, birdsong, insects. Breathe deeply and smell the scents of the woods. Open your mouth wide and taste the air. Feel the earth beneath your feet, the soil between your fingers.

“When you wake up your five senses, which are dulled by modern life, your sixth sense is awakened,” explained wellness leader Astorino. “To me, this is why forest bathing has an appeal now more than ever. Because we’re inundated with information, and it’s hard to hear our own voice.”

You heard right—she said forest bathing. No water necessary.

Rather, forest bathing—it originated in Japan, where it is called shinrin-yoku—is a practice whose proponents believe spending time immersed in nature is beneficial to our mental, spiritual, and even physical health.

For Astorino, 49, of Ambler, and Rubin, 35, of Fort Washington, partners in Rise Gatherings, their four-year-old health and wellness enterprise, forest bathing has not only been embraced by the women they serve, it may well have saved their business, which was all but shut down by COVID-19.

LINETTE KIELINSKI/RISE GATHERINGS/TNS

Rachel Rubin and Tami Astorino, co-presidents of Rise Gatherings where forest bathing is a popular wellness practice.

“We’re helping the forest take care of others,” Astorino said, “and in doing so, it’s taking care of our business, too.”

In recent years, forest bathing has been gaining a following in the United States as a way to reduce stress and anxiety and increase energy by moving mindfully through nature. Researchers in Japan, where the practice originated in the 1980s, say they have found evidence of physical benefits ranging from lower blood pressure to boosting the immune system.

The California-based Association of Nature and Forest Therapy, founded in 2012, has trained over 1,100 guides in their forest bathing-based therapy. Locally, forest bathing and forest therapy outings have been held in settings that include New Jersey’s Pinelands, the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, and Wissahickon Valley Park, to name a few.

Astorino and Rubin both shared a belief in the healing power of nature when a mutual friend introduced them in 2016. It didn’t take long for them to decide to form a business that would bring women together. It became Rise Gatherings. The women had a vision of an annual, personal growth women’s weekend in the Poconos. The first, held in 2017, drew 100 women, and the next two years were bigger still.

The women created other programs as well, including one-day retreats in wooded acreage near New Hope. Astorino had learned about this healing practice through nature called forest bathing. She introduced it to her partner.

“I was blown away by it,” said Rubin.

Even among women who were skeptical at first, forest bathing became a popular part of their programs. What started as a 45-minute workshop in their full-day retreats grew to whole-afternoon experiences.

The partners started 2020 with high hopes.

“This was going to be our year,” Astorino said. “This year we were starting to reap the benefits of everything we had planted.”

Their big annual weekend retreat was on track to be twice as large as the previous one. Their other events were well attended, too.

But then the pandemic struck.

“Like a lot of small businesses, we were going through different scenarios of how we could stay afloat as a business but also how we could be of service,” said Astorino.

During the first months of the pandemic, they offered free virtual programming aimed at bring women together for support and inspiration, and, eventually, to address racial injustice. They found enough interest in the online programs that they started paid virtual memberships as well.

But that wasn’t going to sustain them. So one day this spring, as Astorino was taking a walk in the forest, the idea hit her.

“I thought, ‘What are we waiting for? We can do forest bathing retreats.’”

And so, starting in July, they did—mini-retreats, a few hours in duration, in a 20-acre forest by New Hope. They’ve kept the groups small: 15 to 18 women. Social distancing isn’t a problem in the woods; each person is at least 10 feet apart from each other. The response has been enthusiastic.

SILVER ORCHID PHOTOGRAPHY/RISE GATHERINGS/TNS

Denise Drinkwater of Norristown during a forest-bathing experience with Rise Gatherings.

GAIA DAWN STUDIOS/RISE GATHERINGS/TNS

Tanisha Rosa of Brooklyn joins in a forest-bathing experience with Rise Gatherings.

“It’s amazing,” Rubin said. “Every one of them sells out.”

In each session, Astorino said, she tells the participants about some of the health benefits that have been attributed to forest bathing. The rest of time is a guided experience through different kinds of “invitations,” she said. Some are passive, like being still and feeling earth’s energy. Some are intellectual—feeling the connection to nature and mankind. Others are active—awakening one’s senses, saying a prayer, practicing gratitude. For some, she said, literally reaching out and embracing the forest is a powerful experience.

“If you have never literally hugged a tree, don’t knock it until you try it!” said Robin Brandies, 51, of Marlton. “Even if you choose to do it with no one watching, you may be surprised by what comes back to you.”

Brandies, a fund-raising professional who participated in a recent mini-retreat, said forest bathing can offer something different for everyone.

“It is a truly delightful opportunity to deeply connect with nature and to find some inner quiet,” Brandies said. “It is also a beautiful way to connect with other women—close friends or total strangers.”

Some of the feedback Rubin and Astorino have gotten from the women who have attended the retreats is that forest bathing was the safest they’ve felt among strangers in quite a while.

“They feel a sense of community with others,” Rubin said. “We’re feeling so secluded in our own worlds and have been for so many months.”

And while forest bathing with others is a special experience, it can also be done alone, just you and nature. In time, Astorino said, she believes forest bathing will become part of the mainstream of wellness practices.

“When you experience forest bathing, the trees do talk to you,” she said. “They do say, ‘We’re here for you, and we do need your help.’ So I think there is a larger calling in all of this, and I think more and more people are going to know what it is. I hope so for our sake and the planet’s sake.”

Life & Style

American poet Louise Glück wins Nobel Prize in Literature

NEW YORK (AP)—Louise Glück, an American poet long revered for the power, inventiveness and concision of her work and for her generosity to younger writers, has won the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The Nobel Committee on Thursday praised her as "candid and uncompromising" in granting a rare honor for a U.S. poet, with Wallace Stevens, Gwendolyn Brooks and Robert Frost among her predecessors who were bypassed. Glück spoke briefly to reporters waiting outside her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, saying she felt "agitation, joy, gratitude."

Gluck

Glück is a former U.S. poet laureate who had already received virtually every honor possible for a poet, including the Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for "The Wild Iris," the National Book Award in 2014 for "Faithful and Virtuous Night" and a National Humanities Medal in 2015. She is just the 16th woman to get the Nobel for literature since it was started in 1901.

"As one of our most celebrated American poets, we are thrilled that Louise Glück has received this year's Nobel Prize in Literature," Michael Jacobs, chairman of the Academy of American Poets, said in a statement. "Her poems, her overall body of work, and her utterly distinctive voice, present the human condition in memorable, breathtaking language."

A native of New York City, descended in part from Hungarian Jews, Glück began reading poetry obsessively as a child, and by her early teens, she was already trying to have her work published. She struggled with anorexia as an adolescent, later saying that her eating disorder was less an expression of despair than of her desire to free the soul from the confines of her body, a theme that later arose in her work. The 77-year-old Glück has drawn from both personal experience and common history and mythology, whether revisiting the final section of "The Iliad" in "Penelope's Song" or the abduction of Persephone in "Persephone's Song," in which she imagines Persephone "lying in the bed of Hades":

"What is in her mind?/ Is she afraid? Has something/ blotted out the idea/ of mind?"

Anders Olson, chairman of the Nobel literature committee, said that "Glück seeks the universal, and in this she takes inspiration from myths and classical motifs, present in most of her works. The voices of Dido, Persephone and Eurydice—the abandoned, the punished, the betrayed -- are masks for a self in transformation, as personal as it is universally valid."

With 'Dreams' and juice, Idaho man finds online fame

By SIAN WATSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warehouse worker Nathan Apodaca is enjoying the ride of online fame from a 22-second TikTok video in which he chugs cranberry juice and sings along to Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" while cruising down an Idaho highway atop a longboard.

The video has racked up more than 33 million views and counting since he posted it last month, with thousands of others posting their own versions, including politicians and even Mick Fleetwood.

"I've just been getting flooded with everybody, even just a little boy drinking juice," he said from the RV where he lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho. "I think I've even seen a dog on a skateboard rolling around with some juice taped to him or something. It's insane."

Apodaca, 37, said his vehicle broke down Sept. 25, so he skated to work, singing, filming and drinking as he went. He almost didn't post the clip, but broke into a smile when all the views and likes started to roll in — more than a million after he'd ended his shift that day.

"I'm just happy that I could bring everybody just a chance to smile, just in all this chaos that's going on right now," he said. "I'm glad I can just let everybody just take time out and just breathe."

Ocean Spray, whose cranberry juice Apodaca is seen swigging in the video, latched on to the moment as a marketing opportunity. This week the company gave him a new truck filled with as much juice as he could drink. His daughter, who had been helping him track interview requests and online donations, knocked at the door.

"I go outside and yeah, there's just all these camera people everywhere. I was just like, 'What the heck! This is like Publishers Clearing House!' I'm like 'Did I just win a check?' Yeah, the truck and the juice was wow, that was just amazing," he said.

AP

This Oct. 6, 2020 photo released by Ocean Spray shows Nathan Apodaca holding his skateboard while standing in the back of a truck with Ocean Spray products in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Broadway shutdown due to virus extended again until May 30

NEW YORK (AP)—Fans of Broadway will have to wait a little longer for shows to resume—until at least late May. Although an exact date for various performances to resume has yet to be determined, Broadway producers are now offering refunds and exchanges for tickets purchased for shows through May 30. "We are working tirelessly with multiple partners on sustaining the industry once we raise our curtains again," said Charlotte St. Martin, president of the Broadway League, which represents producers. The latest delay was endorsed by Actors' Equity Association, which represents 51,000 theater actors and stage managers.

Connecticut city OKs renaming sewage plant for John Oliver

It's official. Every time residents of Danbury, Connecticut, flush, they will be sending their special deliveries to the John Oliver Memorial Sewer Plant. The City Council voted 18-1 Thursday night to rename the sewage plant after the comedian, who began a tongue-in-cheek battle with Danbury when he went on an expletive-filled rant against the city on HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" in August. Mayor Mark Boughton didn't waste any time responding on social media. He posted a video of himself at the sewage plant saying the city was going to name it after Oliver. ***(AP)***

Jack White to replace Morgan Wallen as 'SNL' musical guest

NEW YORK (AP)—Jack White will be the last-minute replacement musical guest on "Saturday Night Live" after country singer Morgan Wallen was dropped for breaking COVID-19 protocols. Wallen was removed as musical guest on Thursday after TikTok videos showed him partying last weekend without a mask on among a large group of people. Lorne Michaels announced White as a fill-in Friday on the "Today" show. "Calling somebody on a Thursday to be here for Friday, it's complicated," said Michaels. "It has to be people who are ready to go. And he's always good on the show." Wallen apologized for what he called his "pretty short-sighted" actions Thursday. "I respect the show's decision because I know that I put them in jeopardy and I take ownership for this," the 27-year-old said.

Nightly dinner with sister is too much togetherness

DEAR ABBY: I am 25 and live with my parents. My 28-year-old sister lives in a condo about 10 minutes away. She just graduated from school and moved back here, which means she doesn't have many friends in the city.

For the last five months, she has been coming over for dinner like clockwork every day and every weekend. I'm still finding ways to be social during quarantine, but my sister doesn't seem able to find other means to meet people. Seeing this much of her is, well, too much.

She demands attention, practically forces us to entertain her and gets upset when the dinner my parents are cooking doesn't meet her specifications. At her age, spending this much time with your parents seems, quite frankly, unhealthy. I'm scared to bring it up because she's hypersensitive. How do I avoid another several months of lockdown with a person who doesn't even live with me?

OVERWHELMED IN OREGON

DEAR OVERWHELMED: This isn't a subject you should address with your sister, but is something to discuss privately with your parents. Whether to draw the line and encourage your sister to become less dependent is something they might want to consider.

When her company becomes more than you can handle, excuse yourself, go to your room and avail yourself of your other ways to be social by firing up your computer and visiting with friends. It would also be a kindness for you to suggest ways she, too, can network with people in her field or who have some common interests.

DEAR ABBY: Every day when my husband comes home, he takes off his shoes to relax. He works hard outdoors more than 10 hours daily. His feet smell horrible—unbearable to be around. We have tried insoles, baking soda, foot sprays and even health checks, which helped but didn't get rid of the problem.

He gets offended when I ask him to change his socks and wash his feet. To him I'm out of line to continually point it out. But I can't even sit in the same room with him. Help!

STINKING TIRED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR STINKING TIRED: There is a name for your husband's very common medical condition: It's bromodosis, and it is fixable. It's the result of sweat and the growth of bacteria and possibly fungus.

Your husband should discuss this again with his doctor. Directions for treating his condition are also available online, but they are longer than my column can accommodate. Doing a search on healthline.com would be a good place to start. He should also carry an extra pair of shoes and socks and change them in the course of the workday. Let's hope that from now on your husband will put his best foot forward.

DEAR ABBY: I want to donate to organizations that do good work. My question is, where can I find out which charities put all of the donations toward their cause rather than to staff and fundraising? I read years ago that a well-known charity paid an exorbitant salary to the person in charge, who was already wealthy.

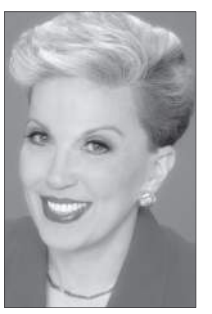
GIVING IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR GIVING: Go online and search Charity Navigator. It's the largest evaluator of charities in the United States and provides reliable data on more than 1.8 million charities and nonprofits. Many people use it to gauge how their contributions will be spent before they donate, and sometimes that information is a real eye-opener.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

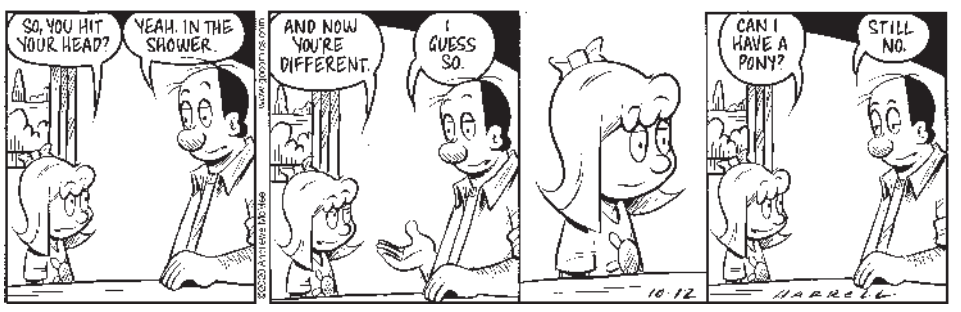
HERE IT IS 8:00 AND WE HAVE TO GO TO BED ALREADY.
SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS RUNNING MY LIFE. I NEVER GET TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU COULD STAY UP?
I DUNNO... SOMETHING FUN! WHATEVER MOM AND DAD GET TO DO!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

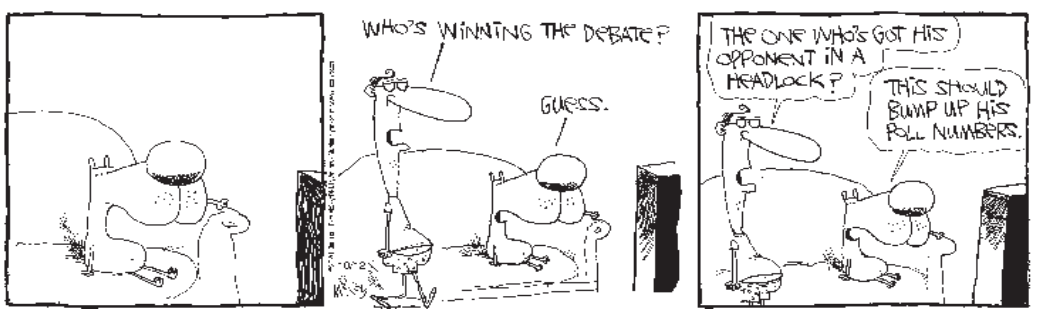
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 New corp. hires
5 Dead heat
8 Purple fruit
12 Type of exercise class
14 Greek vowel
15 Game officials
16 Coup d'—
17 Football filler
18 Sultry singer Kitt
20 Rib
23 "Mad Money" network
24 Rocker — Pop
25 Formal orders
28 Scot's refusal
29 "If I — rich man ..."
30 Attorney's professior
32 College awards
34 "Chicago" actor Richard
35 Workout count
36 Word list, for short
37 Warsaw's country
40 Chit
41 Basra resident
42 Symbols of strength
47 Sandbox toy
48 Sweet-talks
49 Initial chip
50 Actress Long
51 Sediment

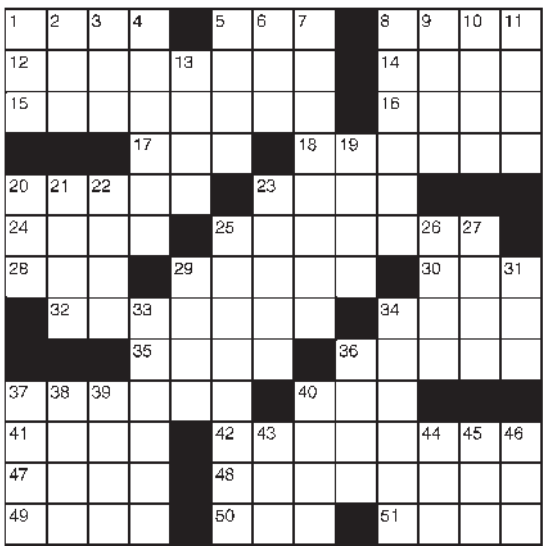
DOWN

1 Scratch
2 Garden buzzer
3 Canine cry
4 "Piece of cake!"
5 Level
6 Water cooler?
7 Perfume ingredients
8 14th president
9 Politico Trent —
10 Hexagonal state
11 — Hari
13 Party cheese
19 "East of Eden" girl
20 Can material
21 "Zounds!"
22 Baseball's Tommie
23 Harvest goddess
25 At heart
26 Power co. supply
27 "The Conners" actress Gilbert
29 Wee songbird
31 Spider's home
33 Betty of "How To Marry a Millionaire"
34 Pumpkin relatives
36 Cast a ballot
37 Haydn nickname
38 Algerian port
39 Cannes milk
40 Furniture brand
43 Sashimi fish
44 Yale grad
45 Snaky fish
46 Former flier

Solution time: 26 mins.

V	A	C	■	I	O	C	O	■	S	A	C	S
O	R	O	■	A	F	O	Y	■	A	L	O	U
W	I	N	D	M	I	L	L	■	F	L	U	B
■	■	C	I	A	O	■	■	W	A	S	P	S
S	T	E	P	S	■	H	E	I	R	■	■	■
F	R	R	S	■	M	I	I	I	I	N	F	R
_	I	T	■	S	A	L	A	D	■	E	T	E
■	O	O	D	M	I	L	L	■	_	B	O	S
■	■	■	R	C	R	S	■	M	O	J	N	T
C	R	A	I	G	■	■	K	A	R	L	■	■
_	I	S	P	■	M	I	L	L	I	O	N	S
A	S	I	P	■	P	O	U	T	■	J	S	C
D	E	N	Y	■	S	U	M	S	■	S	A	X

Last Friday's Answer 10/12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Josh Hutcherson, 28; Tyler Blackburn, 34; Dion Johnstone, 45; Hugh Jackman, 52.

Happy Birthday: Do what you can, and don't dwell on the impossible this year. It's important to pour your energy into situations, people and projects that will bring the best return. Change is necessary, but choosing what has the biggest impact on your emotional and financial future will be the key to your success. Let go of the past, and embrace new beginnings. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 27, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Push negativity aside. Make a to-do list, and don't stop until you have finished what you set out to do. Your accomplishments will lift your spirit and soothe your soul. Celebrate what you achieve with someone or something you value. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Refuse to let sentimentality stand in the way of doing what's right and best for yourself. A change of attitude will influence a partnership that is encouraging you to change direction. Assess what's important, and focus on your goals. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Create changes at home that make you feel safe and secure. How you handle outside interference will dictate what happens to you professionally, financially and physically. Don't follow the crowd. Follow your heart, and protect what's important to you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Opportunity is within reach. Discipline mixed with innovative ideas will separate you from anyone trying to race you to the finish line. Last-minute changes will keep others guessing and show your ability to proceed with adjustments. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll face opposition if you share your intentions. Preparation will be vital if you want to gain support. Time and patience will pay off; being impulsive will lead to a loss. Be the master of your destiny, and put details and precision first. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Make adjustments as you gain information. A change of attitude will surface when dealing with a friend, relative or colleague. Don't ignore signs that can influence the outcome of a project you want to pursue. Make partnerships priorities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Intelligent reasoning when dealing with no-win situations will help you put your energy where it counts. Anger will be a waste of time. If you want to help others, be ready to offer honesty, tough love and wise suggestions. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Use charm, not force. Be willing to make allowances if they will help you get what you want. You'll drum up support if you offer an alternative that will please everyone. A change of plans will lead to an unexpected opportunity. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Live and learn. Don't rely on someone to take care of your responsibilities. Put greater emphasis on home, family and better health. Instead of getting angry, let go of the past. Fix whatever is troubling you and move on. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be realistic regarding what you can accomplish. Not everyone will agree with a decision you make, but that doesn't mean you should deep-six your plans. Do what's best for you, and don't look back. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Consider how you handle and earn your money. Make adjustments to ensure you are getting the biggest bang for your buck. Invest in personal gain, not in someone else's dream. Physical fitness will help you overcome a frustrating situation. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Change the way you live, and it will improve your relationship with someone you love. Distance yourself from anyone trying to manipulate you or interfere in your life. Avoid situations that make it necessary for you to rely on others. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are impatient, dynamic and proactive. You are ambitious and emotional.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2			4	1		
	7	4		5			9	
6		8				4	7	3
8			3		1			
	3						6	
			7		9			4
7	1	3				9		5
	4			3		8	1	
		6	4			2		

Difficulty Level ★ 10/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	2	9	8	4	6	7	1	3
7	4	3	1	9	2	6	5	8
6	8	1	7	3	5	4	9	2
8	9	7	4	5	3	1	2	6
1	5	6	9	2	7	8	3	4
2	3	4	6	1	8	5	7	9
3	7	5	2	6	4	9	8	1
9	6	2	5	8	1	3	4	7
4	1	8	3	7	9	2	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/12

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GROWING YOUR OWN HERBS **Solution: 7 letters**

E	A	C	I	L	A	N	T	R	O	O	D	N	I	O
Z	L	H	A	N	I	S	E	V	O	L	G	F	T	U
I	O	I	Y	R	E	D	N	E	V	A	L	S	S	T
L	E	V	M	E	H	P	C	B	C	O	E	A	E	D
I	V	E	D	O	L	O	A	Y	W	V	L	K	V	O
T	E	S	S	A	M	S	T	E	R	V	D	K	A	O
R	R	E	N	F	I	A	R	A	I	O	C	I	E	R
E	A	T	R	L	Ⓑ	S	H	A	R	I	V	G	L	T
F	D	E	S	H	Ⓐ	E	A	C	P	R	R	A	O	L
E	Y	A	E	M	Ⓨ	H	T	G	L	E	A	M	S	C
N	A	R	H	R	E	H	V	I	E	I	A	G	H	A
N	R	E	S	S	G	T	O	N	A	G	E	R	O	T
E	R	T	N	I	M	S	S	P	R	U	N	E	V	N
L	O	A	L	L	R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	E	I
P	W	W	A	T	C	H	B	T	R	O	W	E	L	P

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Aloe Vera, Anise, Basil, Bay, Bergamot, Catnip, Chamomile, Chives, Cilantro, Comfrey, Dill, Fennel, Fertilize, Flower, Gloves, Greens, Harvest, Hose, Indoor, Lavender, Leaves, Light, Mint, Oregano, Outdoor, Parsley, Pick, Plant, Pots, Prune, Rake, Rosemary, Sage, Salvia, Savory, Seeds, Shade, Shovel, Soil, Stems, Tarragon, Thyme, Trowel, Watch, Water, Yarrow

Last Friday's Answer: Universe

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Supporting cast could decide Lakers-Heat series

FLORIDA—The way he walked onto and off the postgame stage, the way he's piled up minutes like he's forming a mountain, the way he's imprinted the series with his personality and will, it might seem like Jimmy Butler is going it alone.

He's not.

"It's not just me," Butler said.

In the NBA Finals, you can assume the stars are going to do their thing, that LeBron James is going to dominate, Anthony Davis is going to disrupt on both ends and Butler is going to pour his energy all over the court.

But the difference makers have been and will continue to be the supporting cast.

Friday, most notably, it was Duncan Robinson, the Heat's sharpshooter who has gone from a Division III player to NBA Finals X-factor in six years. He had 26 points—21 coming on three-point shots.

"Every time he shoots, we feel like it's going in," Tyler Herro said. "We want him to be aggressive. We want him to continue to shoot balls almost every time he touches it. We want him to continue to shoot the ball and make sure his confidence is high."

Earlier this postseason, Robinson admitted that some of the shots he takes stun even him, but that's what Miami wants and needs. Robinson's motion and threat from deep create the kind of space that Butler and the rest of the Heat need.

It's why Butler had an important message for Robinson.

"Stop running from the basketball," he told him. "Can't shoot the ball if you don't have the ball. I think he gets lost in trying to get other people open, when everybody is going to react to him probably more so than they're going to react to me. A three is worth more than a two.

"So as long as he's coming to the ball, shooting the ball when he's open, when he's not open, that's the Duncan Robinson that we need, that we want, because that's how he's been playing all year long. And we're going to need him to be even more aggressive for Game 6."

There's no doubt that however great James and Davis are, they'll need help to close out the series. That couldn't be more true than in the final seconds, when the ball found itself in Danny Green's hands for an open shot that missed badly. And it was true for Markieff Morris, who turned it over when the Lakers needed a pass to be on target.

"They're vets," James said. "I don't think too much needs to be said to them. I believe they will be much better and I'm not saying they even played bad tonight. Everybody in the lineup tonight that got minutes gave the effort. We just had some mental breakdowns at times."

Dwight Howard's recklessness was another breakdown, and it cost the Lakers a six-point possession for the Heat.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope has been the Lakers' most consistent role player—his 31 points in the last two games is the most he's had in back-to-back contests since January. He, like Robinson, has been incredibly valuable in spacing the floor.

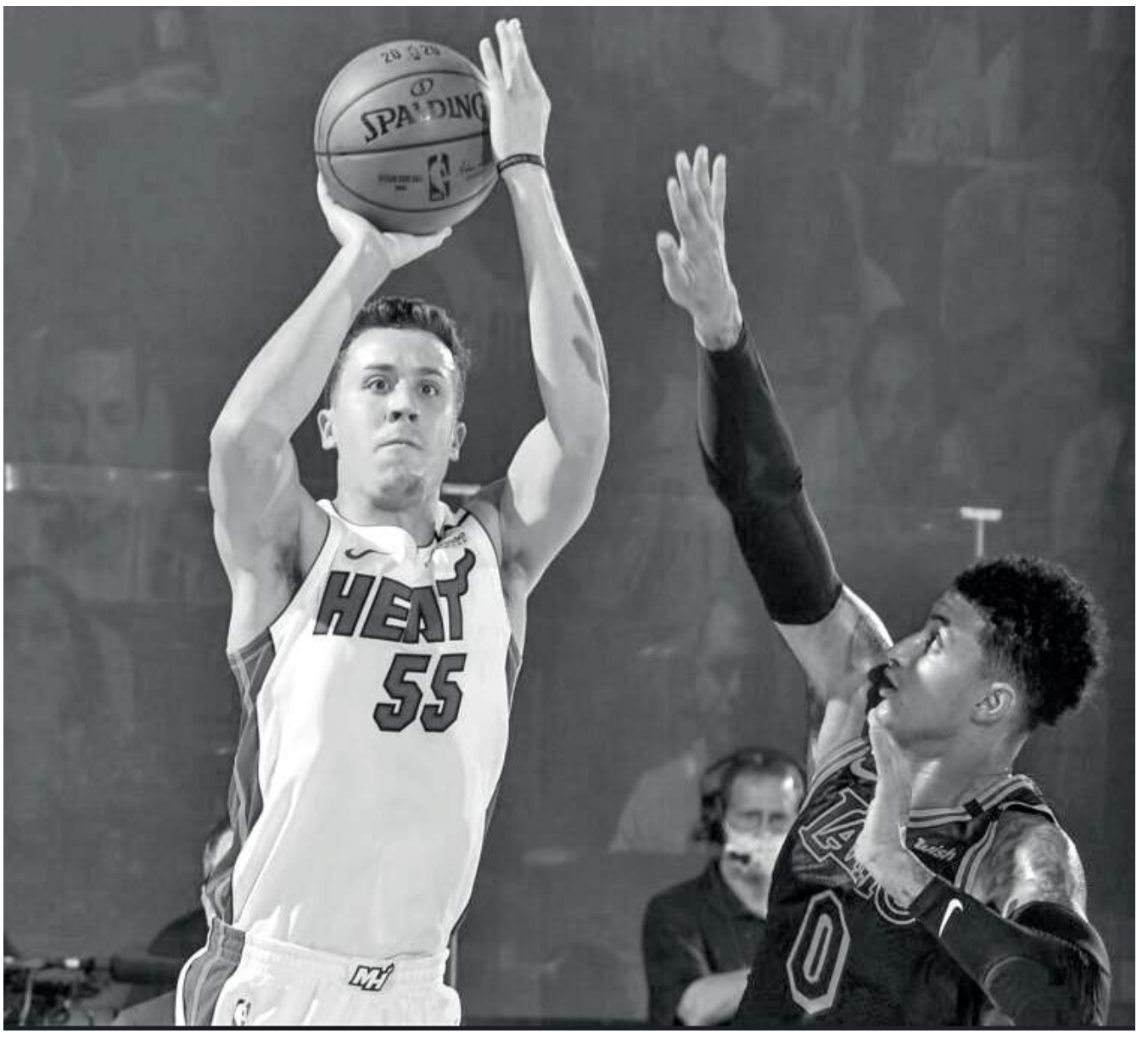
The Lakers are going to need him and more from their role players.

Whether it's Rajon Rondo, Alex Caruso, Kyle Kuzma, Green or Morris, if the great players are all playing great, those contributors might end up being the difference.

Just ask Butler. He knows it won't be just him.

"We have been playing together, win, loss, draw, whatever. We're in this thing together," he said. "And that's what's going to win us games. I think night in and night out it could be anybody.

"Like we're so together when we're out there on the floor, off the floor. That's why we win because everybody wants everybody to be successful."



AP

Miami Heat guard Duncan Robinson, left, shoots against Los Angeles Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma during the second half in Game 5 of the NBA Finals Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

NBA admits missed calls went against Lakers

FLORIDA (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers fell in a thriller in Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Friday, and soon made very clear what they thought of the officiating in the final minutes.

Lakers head coach Frank Vogel griped about calls surrounding Miami Heat hero Jimmy Butler, claiming they led to four free throws the Heat didn't deserve:

"I felt two bad calls, at the end, put Butler at the line. That's unfortunate in a game of this magnitude. Anthony Davis has a perfect verticality, should be a play-on. In the time before that, Markieff Morris has his hand on the ball. That should be a play-on. They were given four free throws and make an uphill battle for us. So, very disappointed in that aspect of the game."

LeBron James essentially concurred, saying certain "questionable calls" helped the Heat:

"Couple questionable calls that swayed their way, put Jimmy [Butler] to the free-throw line."

A day later, the NBA released its Last 2 Minutes report for Game 5 and concluded that two calls were indeed missed that should have been in the Lakers' favor. However, neither were the calls Vogel and James were talking about, and the calls in question also didn't end up really costing the Lakers.

Which Lakers calls did NBA Finals officials miss?

Instead of the two fouls called against the Lakers on drives by Butler, which the NBA explicitly ruled correct calls, the NBA pointed to two incorrect non-calls on Laker possessions that still resulted in two points each for the Lakers.

The first occurred with 1:01 left in the game, when James was driving through the paint with Butler guarding him. The league said that Butler's right arm made contact with James' head and should have been ruled a shooting foul.

However, James went on to rebound his own miss after attempting a difficult layup to make a second-chance field goal which put the Lakers up 106-105.

The other missed call came with 28 seconds left in the game. The NBA noted that Heat forward Andre Iguodala should have been called for defensive three seconds given how long he spent in the paint without actively guarding an opponent. That possession ended with Kentavious Caldwell-Pope air-balling a 3-pointer, Anthony Davis rebounding the miss and scoring for another two points.

That score put the Lakers up 108-107 with 21.8 seconds remaining, a lead that would disappear the next play when Butler drew the foul that had the Lakers steamed after the game. Let's talk about that play as well.

With the Heat's season on the line, the ball was only going to one man, Butler.

Looking for an opening at halfcourt, Butler received a screen from Jae Crowder that allowed him to lose both James and Markieff Morris and drive to the paint, where Davis was waiting across the paint to help.

Davis quickly maneuvered into Butler's path, in the restricted area, and stonewalled the star. Butler missed the layup, but received two decisive free throws.

It was still an advisable foul, as Butler was very likely to get two points if Davis had not aggressively shifted over. However, it's hard to look at that play and think Davis had "perfect verticality" as Vogel argued. When he jumps, his feet are on the front right part of the restricted area. When he lands, he's in the back left.

As the NBA put it, Davis "jumps from point A to point B and initiates body contact with Butler during his driving shot attempt."

The NBA also made clear in its report that it wasn't Morris' hand hitting Butler's arm or the ball that led to the foul, as Vogel said, but Morris' contact with Butler's left arm during his gather.

Whoever lost the most to errant officiating—the Heat had a questionable call or two against them as well—it matters little now. The Lakers might want to hope the NBA doesn't look too closely at a certain run-in between Davis and Crowder earlier in the game, though, as they prepare for Game 6.

AD probable for Game 6; Dragic doubtful

Davis was clearly bothered by his right heel injury, a contusion, during Game 5 but said afterward he would be "fine" for Game 6.

Davis is officially listed as probable for Game 6.

Anthony Davis has played through a mild version of the injury all Finals, but aggravated it late in the first quarter and left the game for a while, only to return in the second quarter.

"Ugh, Iggy (Andre Iguodala) kind of stepped on it," Davis said. "He aggravated it, but I'll be fine Sunday."

Davis finished Game 5 with 28 points, 12 rebounds, three blocks and three steals in 42 minutes.

"He was just battling through the heel," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "He was struggling to move a little bit, but toughed it out, and we'll see how he feels tomorrow."

The Lakers need Davis to close this series out. He has played at a Finals MVP level this series, averaging 26.2 points a game on 60.5% shooting. On the other end of the court, Davis has guarded Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo, and been fantastic with his rim protection.

For Miami, Goran Dragic is still listed as doubtful with a torn plantar fascia. He has been receiving treatment and tried to warm up before Game 5, but he couldn't plant and move well. ***(AP/NBC)***

Rays seek revenge against Astros in ALCS

CALIFORNIA (AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays have more revenge in mind heading to the AL Championship Series.

Mike Brosseau hit a tie-breaking homer in the eighth inning off All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman on Friday night, propelling Tampa Bay past the rival Yankees in their AL Division Series. It was a sweet piece of vengeance for Brosseau after Chapman buzzed a 101 mph fastball over his head during the regular season, escalating tensions in an already bitter rivalry. Brosseau downplayed their past drama.

"No revenge," he said. "We put that the past. We came here to win the series."

The Rays' reward: a rematch with the Astros, the team that knocked them out of the 2019 postseason.

"They've been the team to beat the last few years," Brosseau said. "They knocked us out last year, so it will be fun to face them again."

Game 1 will be Sunday night in San Diego. Houston will have a fully rested rotation, with Lance McCullers Jr. or Framber Valdez most likely to get the ball. The Rays will likely throw 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays second baseman Brandon Lowe fields the pick-off attempt while New York Yankees' Gleyber Torres (25) steals second during the eighth inning in Game 5 of the American League Division Series Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, in San Diego.

Final preparations

Baseball's postseason gets a full day off from games before the AL Championship Series opens Sunday. In the meantime, the Rangers and MLB are preparing Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, to host baseball's first in-person fans of this virus-altered season Monday.

Tickets are already sold out for the opener of the neutral-site NL Championship Series between the Braves and Dodgers, although plenty are available on the secondary market. MLB is selling 11,500 tickets for each NLCS and World Series game at the Rangers' ballpark, 28% of capacity.

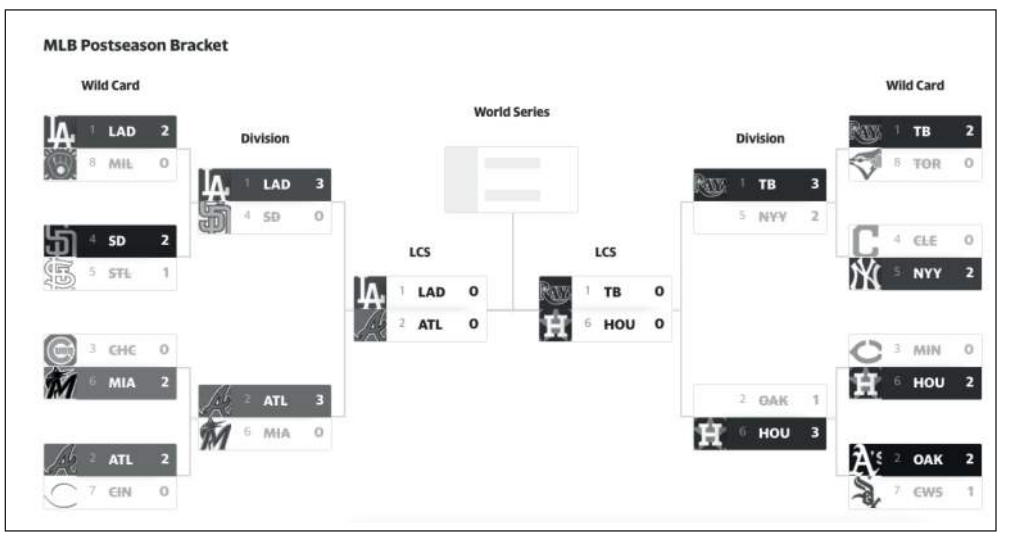
Tickets are being sold in pods of four, and each pod will be spaced at least six feet from other fans—a move MLB hopes will keep onlookers safe inside the stadium. Masks will be mandatory, concessions and parking will be cashless, and the team's concessionaire is planning wrapped items.

Settling in

Astros manager Dusty Baker is managing in the postseason with his fifth different franchise, but this one has certainly been different. The 71-year-old was hired in late January after AJ Hinch was fired in fallout from Houston's sign-stealing scandal, and his introduction to Houston's clubhouse was cut short in mid-March by the coronavirus pandemic.

Baker said it took until the tail-end of the 60-game regular season for him to really feel like Houston was his team.

"For a while, I kind of felt like a substitute teacher," he said. "I didn't know which guys were stubborn or sensitive. They didn't know how honest or truthful to be with me or what would tick me off or make me happy. Now I'm turning into a permanent teacher the last month or so."



Cats coming

After an improbable run to the playoffs, the Marlins confronted a hard reality in the NL Division Series: They still can't beat the Braves.

The Marlins were sent to the sideline later than usual, but forcefully, when Atlanta completed a best-of-five sweep with a 7-0 win Thursday. The three-game drubbing showed the Marlins their great leap forward this year left them still a ways from overtaking their NL East rivals.

"You have to measure yourself with them, and have to be able to beat that club," Miami manager Don Mattingly said. "We feel like we're getting closer, but they let us know where we're at."

Sixto Sanchez and Miami's other young pitchers had promising seasons, but the offense needs a boost. The Marlins' productivity increased by more than half a run per game from 2019, but only four teams hit fewer homers, and their OPS ranked 23rd.

Miami expect prospects to help the offense continue to trend upward in 2021.

"We've got a number of guys who are going to have to take a step forward," Mattingly said. "And there are other cats coming, too. There is going to be a lot of competition for jobs."

Pats cleared for practice; Newton still out

NEW ENGLAND (AP)—The New England Patriots got mostly good news Saturday. After another round of coronavirus tests with no new positives, the team opened its practice facility and returned to the field for the first time since Week 4.

That bodes well for the Patriots to take on the Denver Broncos on Monday night. The two teams were initially set to play Sunday, but the NFL moved the game back a day after Patriots cornerback Stephon Gilmore tested positive for the coronavirus. Gilmore said he was asymptomatic. Quarterback Cam Newton and lineman Bill Murray are also on the team's COVID-19/reserve list.

As a result of Gilmore's positive test, the team canceled in-person practices during the week and worked remotely Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. If the Patriots' Week 5 game goes off as planned, the Patriots will be able to get in two in-person practices before taking on the Broncos.

While the game against the Broncos now seems likely, the Patriots may not have two of their biggest stars when they take the field Monday night. Both Gilmore and Newton were not at the practice field Saturday. That's not necessarily a surprise. Players need to test negative twice on consecutive days, or wait 10 days after their first positive test before returning to action. Gilmore and Newton haven't fulfilled that criteria yet.

Meanwhile, New York Jets players and coaches have been sent home from their training facility after a presumptive positive coronavirus test, a person with direct knowledge of the test tells The Associated Press.

The player was retested and the results should be known later Friday, the person said on condition of anonymity because the NFL and the team have not released the information. If the second test comes back negative—it happened to Matthew Stafford in August—then he is not positive.

The lab used by the league is near the Jets' facility in Florham Park, New Jersey, so the retest result should come relatively quickly. Even if it is a positive, the NFL doesn't necessarily need to adjust the scheduled game Sunday with Arizona. The league has had 60 cases since testing began in which one player or staff member tested positive and there wasn't further transmission among the team.

By sending everyone home from the facility Friday morning, the Jets took the appropriate steps under the NFL/NFLPA COVID-19 protocols.

Garoppolo is back

Jimmy Garoppolo will return as starting quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers this week after missing the past two games with a sprained ankle.

Coach Kyle Shanahan said Garoppolo will start Sunday at home against the Miami Dolphins. Shanahan wanted to see how Garoppolo made it through a full week of practice before making his decision.

"Each day he got better," Shanahan said Friday. "Never felt too sore the next day. So, we needed to hear that today and see him out there today and we feel good to go."

Garoppolo had hoped not to miss any time with the injury, having played through ankle sprains before. But this was a more severe high ankle sprain which made it impossible for him to move well enough to avoid danger in the pocket.

He was able to show he was healthy in practice and will provide a needed spark for the 49ers (2-2), who lost 25-20 at home last week to Philadelphia.

"Ankle is feeling really good right now," Garoppolo said. "Got the last couple of weeks off to get it right. The training staff, I tip my hat to those guys, they did a great job with me, just preparing me and everything. But, as far as getting out there, I mean, we've had the whole week to work on it. So, it's feeling pretty good right now."

Nadal, Djokovic eye history in French Open

PARIS (AP)—Go all the way back to June 8, 2006, when Rafael Nadal moved on at the French Open after his 19-year-old, 63rd-ranked opponent in the quarterfinals quit because of a bad back while trailing two sets to none.

That opponent's assessment of Nadal after facing him for the first time as pros: "He's the best on this surface, but he's not unbeatable. That's for sure."

That foe? Novak Djokovic. Fast-forward to the final at Roland Garros on Sunday, when No. 1 Djokovic and No. 2 Nadal will stand across from each other once again at Court Philippe Chatrier, only this time in October after the tournament was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It will be their 56th tour-level meeting—more than any other pair of men in the Open era, which dates to 1968.

And let's not forget the big picture: This match carries significant weight in the Grand Slam standings that so many fans, and the players themselves, keep tabs on.

Roger Federer, who is 39 and missed most of this season after having two knee operations, owns the men's record of 20 major championships. Nadal, who is 34, is next among men with 19; Djokovic, 33, stands third with 17.

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal, left, celebrates winning the semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament against Argentina's Diego Schwartzman at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Friday, Oct. 9, 2020. Nadal will face Novak Djokovic, right, in the finals.

After Sunday, either Nadal will pull even with Federer for the first time since they were tied with zero apiece, or Djokovic will gain on the leading duo and the totals will read 20-19-18.

For now, this is how each has filled his trophy cabinet:

Djokovic: 8 at the Australian Open, 5 at Wimbledon, 3 at the U.S. Open, 1 at the French Open;

Nadal: 12 at the French Open, 4 at the U.S. Open, 2 at Wimbledon, 1 at the Australian Open;

Federer: 8 at Wimbledon, 6 at the Australian Open, 5 at the U.S. Open, 1 at the French Open.

All three are greats of the game, regardless of where the numbers end up, of course.

Still, as much as Nadal wouldn't engage in a discussion about his chance to catch Federer after beating Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (0) in the semifinals Friday, he did acknowledge that "it's good for tennis" if others talk about it.

Rest assured, they will.

Much in the way that for years, people will debate which of the Big Three duos had the most intriguing head-to-head matchup: Federer vs. Nadal, Djokovic vs. Federer, or Nadal vs. Djokovic.

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Boston Celtics even before the start of Game 5 last Saturday.

The confetti was on standby, champagne was on ice, and the Larry O'Brien trophy was already in the building. Good thing the stubborn Miami Heat didn't cooperate to the chagrin of local Lakers and LeBron James fans (sorry Errol Peredo, Rick Brien, Dante Tabora, and Ernie Moises).

If anything, Game 5 of their best-of-seven series against the mighty Los Angeles Lakers proved that Jimmy Butler and company are the epitome of gutsiness and that the never-say-die spirit truly runs in their veins.

Butler, the 30th pick on the 2011 draft (yes, the same year *Real Steel* hit theaters), went toe to toe against LeBron and willed his rag-tag team to victory. It was very much like how tiny Atom slugged it out against the gargantuan Zeus for the 2020 World Robot Boxing league championship.

Facing elimination for the first time in this playoffs, the owner of Big Face Coffee was really caffeinated at the start of Game 5. He was especially aggressive in the last two minutes, driving to the cup each time for layups or fouls.

However, it was apparent that Butler's tank was really going on empty in this one. In Miami's second to the last offensive play, the Heat's undisputed leader was fouled hard by Markieff Morris and he needed 10 seconds and even leaned on the end-line cushion to rest before taking his free throws (which he converted as he went 12-for-12 in this game).

Despite another herculean effort from Butler, Miami survived only by the skin of their teeth thanks to a missed 3-pointer by Heat killer Danny Green with 2.2 second left. Spur Danny Green would've sank that, but at this point in his career Green's chances of hitting the game-winner are pretty much the same as Alfonso Ribeiro had in that old episode of *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*.

Game 5 was also the long-awaited Duncan Robinson game, as the former Division 3 long-shot ably supported Butler's 35-point triple double with 26 points of his own, including seven connections from the land of plenty. It's not a stretch to say that if Twin Towers (in obvious reference to the Spurs' two legends) didn't show up in the last game, the Lakers would've already been celebrating their 17th championship.

Heat also won thanks to a couple of 4-point plays from Robinson and Jae Crowder and even a 6-point play in the third quarter when Butler made and an-1 after a Dwight Howard flagrant 2 foul and Robinson splashing a 3-pointer the next possession. They needed all of that as The King was at the height of his powers in this game, going for 40 points, 13 rebounds, and 7 assists aside from basically bullying everyone in a Heat uniform on his way to the basket in the final minutes (Good thing he passed to Green in the last play).

There was also a rare Kendrick Nunn sighting in the last game, as the undrafted rookie, which the Heat fleeced from the Golden State Warriors, pumped in 14 points in 28 productive minutes off the pine. Nunn's contributions were crucial as the Heat continued to miss their leading scorer in the playoffs, Goran Dragic.

It will be a miracle if The Dragon ever plays in the series again. But in a perfect world, Miami somehow wins Game 6 and Gogi can do a Willis Reed and make a cameo to inspire the troops—so to speak—in Game 7. Then I will let the basketball gods decide the 2020 NBA championship—junkyard dog vs. pedigree. tinseltown vs. working class, guts vs. glamor.

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0 handicap, they still ended up with a net score of 70, narrowly defeating the teams of Diego Benavente/Joji Taguchi and Freddie Cataluna/Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho.

Benavente and Taguchi, who had a -2.40 handicap, came in at second place after firing a 33 and 35 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 68 and net 70.40. Cataluna and Kamizake, on the other hand, finished third with their net 70.80, as the -4.80 handicapper posted a 34 in the first nine holes and 32 in the last.

Cash prizes were handed to the Top 3 along with the No. 4 and 5 finishers during the awards ceremony held at the Fiesta Resort & Saipan last Saturday night. Alex Tudela and Tony Benavente were ranked fourth, while the father-and-son tandem of Ben Jones Sr. and Jr. placed fifth. Both teams shot a net 71, but Tudela and Benavente prevailed in the scorecard tiebreak.

In the women's division, Soon Ja Yoo and Chang Hee Yoo earned the first place honors after registering a net 72.60. They had a -3.60 handicap and posted a 34 on the front nines and 35 on the back for a gross 69. Sun Suk Kim and Seo Yeon Jeon (net 73.40), Jyun Son and Yuko Togawa (73.60), Me Ae Jeon and Sylvia Cai (74.60), Sherlyn Jones and Lorraine Babauta (75.60) rounded out the Top 5.

Meanwhile, in the side events Tudela won the accurate circle in hole No. 9, while Harry Nakamura made the longest drive in hole No. 18. In the closest to the pin competitions, the winners were Brian Camacho in hole No. 3, Dung Tenorio in No. 7, Paul Kaipat in No. 13, and Joe Torres on No. 17.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rotary Club of Saipan officials present the prizes to women's division winners Chang Hee Yoo, fifth left, and Soon Ja Yoo, sixth left, during the awards ceremony for the group's golf tournament last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

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from 4pm to 5pm. Then every Tuesday and Thursday team practice is done in the morning, from 8:45am to 10:45am, while Lee and company hit the gym before lunch break, working out from 11am to 12nn.

On Wednesdays, the five-time Tan Siu Lin Foundation/Northern Marianas Sports Association Female Student Athlete of the Year checks into the Yellow Jacket's track oval for their 6am practice, while she goes for her second individual training for the week from 10am to 11am. Lee will then report for team practice in the afternoon with the session starting at 2pm and ending at 4pm.

Team practice every Friday is also from 2pm to 4pm and is followed by a court workout from 4pm to 5pm. On Saturdays, Lee and her Georgia Tech teammates have their team practice from 8:30am to 10:30am, while fitness training is scheduled from 11am to 12nn.

"Compared to the ones I had before in Fiji and Morocco (International Tennis Federation training facility), at Georgia Tech, it's more about training as a team. The training schedule at Georgia Tech is more structured than back home. There are also more and better resources around the environment I'm in as a student-athlete," said Lee, who received a full scholarship from Georgia Tech after her impressive junior tennis career.

The 18-year-old added that recovery from training is very challenging since they practice on multiple occasions in one day. However, she is up to the challenge and looking forward for her debut with the Yellow Jackets.

There's no tournament schedule yet for the Georgia Tech women's tennis program because of the COVID-18 pandemic. The Yellow Jackets used to begin their season in fall (September) and compete in invitational events. Then in the first quarter of the year, Georgia Tech joins Intercollegiate Tennis Association-sanctioned competitions before seeing action Atlantic Coast Conference in the NCAA and then in the Nationals. It's been a while since the Yellow Jackets ruled the Nationals with their last championship recorded in the 2006-2007 season after they beat UCLA, 4-2. In the same season, Georgia Tech took its third ACC title.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee, second right, joins her teammates at Georgia Tech for a group photo after a training session early this month in Atlanta.

Supporting cast could decide Lakers-Heat series

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Rays seek revenge against Astros in ALCS

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Carol relishes intense training

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Carol Lee is undergoing intense training with NCAA Division 1's Georgia Tech.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is going through a different level of training with NCAA Division 1's Georgia Tech.

Though the Yellow Jackets have yet to play a game this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lee said their practice sessions have been fierce and completely different from what she is used to when she trained off-island.

"Training has been great so far because the sessions are high intensity. There's a lot of positive energy and strong team spirit," said Lee, one of the four rookies on Georgia Tech women's tennis' roster for the 2020-2021 season.

Lee, who is pursuing a business degree at Georgia Tech, trains six times a week, two to three times a day. Her Monday tennis schedule includes an individual practice from 10am to 11am, team session from 2pm to 4pm, and court workout

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First-time winners in Rotary golf tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jack, fifth left, and Ramon San Nicolas, sixth left, receive their prizes from Rotary Club of Saipan officials during the awards ceremony for the group's golf tournament last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Cousins Jack and Ramon San Nicolas' first partnership turned out to be fruitful one, as they topped the Rotary Club of Saipan's Goodwill Golf Tournament held last Saturday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Jack and Ramon shot a net 70 in the two-person scramble tournament with a double-peoria format to beat the over 100 golfers that joined the fundraising event. The duo combined for a 4-under par 32 on the front nine and 2-over par 38 on the back and with their

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People's champ

MARKSMAN
By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

Like Atom in the 2011 American science-fiction sports film Real Steel, the 2020 Miami Heat are the people's champion regardless of what happens in the NBA Finals.

Clad in their Black Mamba jerseys (they were 4-0 wearing the Kobe Bryant designed uniforms), the Lakers were ready to celebrate their 17th NBA championship to tie their bitter rivals the

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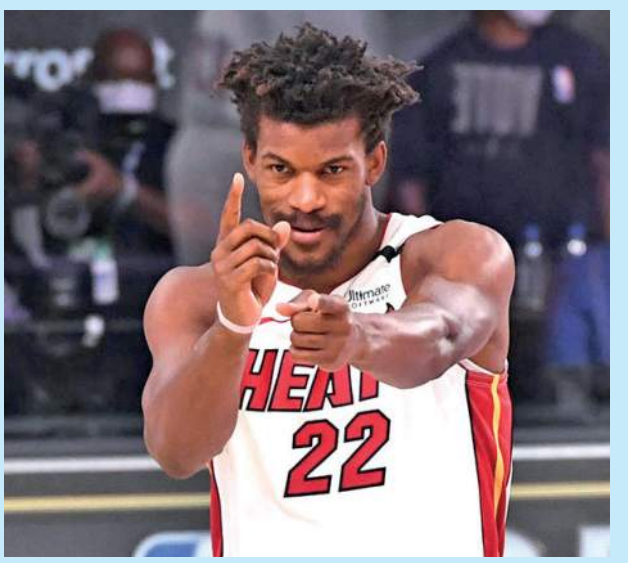

AP
Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler gestures after making a basket during the second half in Game 5 of the NBA Finals against the Los Angeles Lakers Friday, Oct. 9, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.